



SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER 2000-2001

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

TWO-DAY HOLIDAY STROLL ACTIVITIES

The Society's annual Holiday Stroll will be held on Friday evening, December 8, from 6:00 to 8:30 pm on Main Street, Sheffield. The Stroll will start at the Mark Dewey Research Center, where admission stickers will be available; for members and children under 12 the event is free; the fee for nonmembers is \$5.00. Everyone wishing to visit the houses must obtain an admissions sticker; houses will be open from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.

The Stroll this year will include three private homes plus Christ Church Episcopal and the Dan Raymond House. At the final stop, the Congregational Church, there will be a presentation at 7:30 pm by the student choir of Undermountain School under the direction of Anson Olds. Refreshments will follow, during which time there will be keyboard entertainment and the public is invited to join in singing holiday tunes. A map showing the locations of all venues will be distributed with the stickers, and the way will be lighted with 21st-century "luminaries."

A highlight of the evening and the following day, Saturday, will be a display of decorated miniature trees. Some of the trees will be raffled on Friday night at the church, and the remainder will be sold in a silent auction that will run both Friday

evening and Saturday between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm. Also on Saturday, a miniature hand-sewn quilt, suitable for a lap robe, wall hanging, or table cover, created by Doreen Atwood, will be raffled. During Saturday's activities, a light lunch of soup, bread and dessert will be available at the church.

MEMBERSHIP SANTA ALERT



Society members and friends are asked to bring a miniature Santa (no larger than three inches) to the November meeting. The Santas will be used to decorate a two-foot tree to be raffled off on Saturday, December 9. This is part of a fundraiser for the Society, so your help is important. Make one, buy one, take one out of your collection. Just please be sure to bring a Santa (or drop it off at the Dan Raymond House).

Special Holiday Workshops November 18!
See back cover for details.

Tree Styles from 1999



Insights from a Hotel Register

The Mark Dewey Research Center of the Society has received an exceedingly important gift in the form of hotel registers from Joan Brooks of Ashley Falls, who is a longtime supporter. The eight volumes cover much of the period from 1867 to 1924 and illustrate in some interesting ways the dramatic changes in travel, tourism, entertainment, and use of leisure time in this area during those years. The registers also list the occasional person of historical importance or whose family name is well known nationally. It is gifts such as these that continue to illuminate the history of Sheffield and the surrounding area. The Center is always on the search for additional items for its collection, which spans over 300 years of local history in both primary and secondary sources.

Most volumes of the Brooks gift are from the Maplewood Inn in Ashley Falls, presently the home of John James and Kathie Ness, but some are from other inns, probably brought to Maplewood by people who had operated similar businesses elsewhere but later became associated with the Ashley Falls inn. For example, the earliest volume, 1867 to 1900, names Charles Merrell as proprietor and, later, an M. M. Rice, followed by his wife, Mrs. M. M. Rice [Jennie B. Rice], and lists the inn's name as Railroad House. However, the owner of Maplewood during much of that time was actually Samuel Ferris, and his hotel was never known as Railroad House. Very possibly this register is from Connecticut, somewhere along the Green Wood Turnpike, since one guest, A. B. Treat of North Manchester, Connecticut, registered in 1879 with the notation, "Building chimney at Green Woods, Ct." Jennie B. Rice, that is, Mrs. M. M. Rice, of Ashley Falls, is first listed as a taxpayer in Sheffield in 1897, when she paid \$39.15 in taxes, including \$25.00 for a hotel and barn in Ashley Falls. Thus, Maplewood Inn registers from the Brooks gift begin in

September 1897 with Mrs. Rice and continue on to 1924. She was proprietor until 1909, followed by Frank P. Smith, who ran the inn until 1924.

Quite common up until 1910 or 1915 were traveling vaudeville troupes that came to town, usually for one-night performances. Almost always these groups were preceded by an advance man who arrived to make arrangements a week or so before the performance and noted the day and time of the event in the hotel register with a John Hancock-size flourish. One such troupe was the Alabama Troubadours, who registered on April 6, 1898. Five in number, they included Charles H. Perkins, manager and tenor; Madame Perkins, soprano; John F. Randolph, accompanist; Madame Randolph, contralto; and Billy Wilson, comedian and baritone. Similarly embellished in the register was the group's notation "Next Stand, Sharon, Conn." A few months later, in the early winter of 1899, the town saw a performance by another group, this time the All Star Novelty Company, J. Butts, manager, and enjoyed a "dance after show" sponsored by the company as a further attraction. Many such troupes are listed in the registers, and the entries, like those of the Alabama Troubadours and All Star Novelty Company, are usually colored and are frequently written in an elegant, heavily two-dimensional script.

These programs were sometimes performed in the town hall, other times in Decker's Hall, or Depot Hall, both in Ashley Falls. By and large, the theatrical companies disappeared from the scene by the second decade of the 20th century, but a little before their demise, a new leisure-time activity made its appearance as individuals, families, and parties began touring by automobile. Chauffeurs were a common fixture in the early days of the automobile and in 1909 Asa Coons "and chauffeur" of Hartford registered at the hotel. But Mr. Coons was decidedly outclassed by Mrs. A. Radel of "Bridgeport,

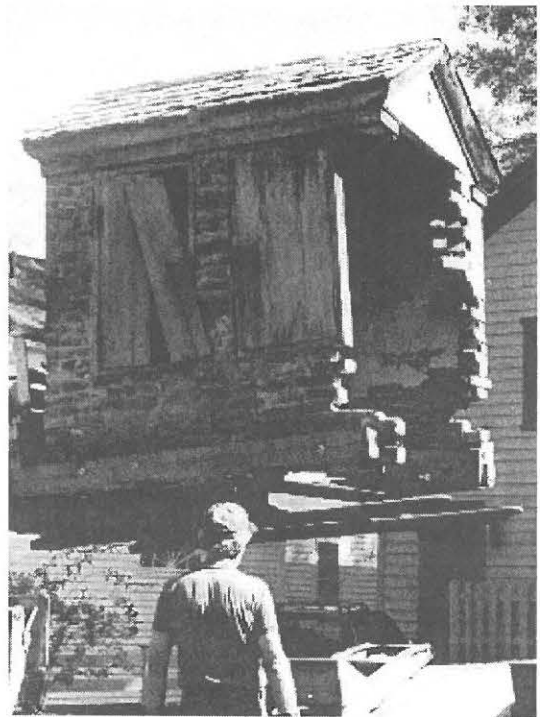
THE COMINGS AND GOINGS OF THE SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Smokehouse Arrives!

On a sunny morning in mid-October, the smokehouse was safely moved from the grounds of Christ Church to its new location next to the Dan Raymond House. Restoration is underway.

A special thank-you goes out to all who have donated time, services, and financial resources to this project. Those who have contributed funds to date include:

Allen & Karin Altman
Ann B. Barrett
Betty & Arthur Batacchi
Blanche & Bill Bennett
Grace Wallace Brown
Sharon Casdin
Betty Chapin
Noel L. & Baukje P. Cohen
Albert C. Combes, III
Mrs. Franklin Curtiss
John R. Downie--in honor of Roger Drury
Virginia J. Drury
Helen Bray & Frank Garretson
Mark Lavietes & Rose Rosal
Ruth & Bob Ledlie--in memory of Florence &
George D.A. Combes
Dorothy Marosy
Catherine McNeil--in honor of Dorothy Marosy
Mary Ellen McNeil--in honor of Dr. Abbott &
Gladys Combes
Virginia Moskowitz
Patrice Mullin
C. Twiggs Myers--in memory of Arthur Chase
Kathie Ness & John James
Elisabeth H. O'Connor
Peter Rowntree
Walter E. Stevens--in honor of Col. Thomas
Stevens & Zebulon Stevens
Robert & Rebecca Thomas
Marilyn & John Wightman
Marianne & Stephen Witdorchic--in honor of
The New England Way
Rene Wood & Dennis Sears



Ernest Sattler supervises the moving of the smokehouse, which appears here to be suspended in space. Look closely and you will see two ski-like prongs at the base of the building; they are in fact the forks of the lift, operated by Bill DeVries.

Very special thanks go to Dennis D. Picard, Wesley G. McCain, and James & Catherine Miller, who gave in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Milton Barnum.

For invaluable in-kind contributions, we are grateful to Bill DeVries and Scott Mackenzie.

Spirits, both historic and modern, were recently on the move in the Center Cemetery. It was a cold and blustery night but over 60 people participated. Thanks to all involved for a chillingly educational experience!

Conn. and two chauffeurs." "And chauffeur" was a common notation in the registers. Almost as common were the automobile touring groups—travelers out simply for the joy of getting away. One such excursion in 1910 brought Lee H. Campbell, J. F. Houser, Wm. Supples, Earl Baxter, and C. P. Gray to the Maplewood, where they proudly noted "Packard 30 Roy Ride" in the margin beside their signatures. And then there were the Ives, Rowlands, Macfarlands, and Shumens of Prattsville, New York, out "on a tare" in June 1915, according to the register.

The size and importance of tourism are clearly evident from just one example, 1911. In the wintry month of February that year, only 14 people registered at Maplewood, a number that swelled in the heat of July to 128 from such places as Chicago, Philadelphia, Buffalo, Tenaflly, New York City, Norfolk in Virginia, and Los Angeles and Pasadena. Before the days of air conditioning, these visits often lasted two months or more, extending sometimes into the fall.

Tourism as a business began in earnest in Sheffield in 1842 with the coming of the Housatonic Railroad and the passenger train, but second-home owners were far less common than they are today. Most visitors then spent their summers as guests in hotels, inns, and boardinghouses, as evidenced by the Maplewood registers, but their economic contribution to the local economy has been significant since the beginning of tourism in the 1840s and this is clearly evident from the registers.

As for the occasional famous person who wandered through the inn at Ashley Falls, consider Henry Ward Beecher of Brooklyn, a frequent visitor to Sheffield, especially to Sage's Ravine; Henry S. Fenimore Cooper of Cooperstown, New York; or Mrs. James Roosevelt of Hyde Park on Hudson. Surely there are others less known, still to be discovered among the hundreds of pages and thousands of autographs, including, possibly, ancestors

of present home owners. The volumes are fertile ground for additional research.

For these insights, our grateful thanks to Joan Brooks.

James Miller, volunteer, Mark Dewey Research Center

Dan Raymond House Holiday Schedule

The house will be open for tours and viewing of the decorations on Friday December 1st, Friday the 8th, and Saturday the 9th from 11 am to 3 pm.

****New exhibition: *A Family's Tool Closet***

Meeting Schedule 2001

January 12: The Annual "What's It"

February 9: "America's Forgotten Patriots: The Role of African American Soldiers in the Revolutionary War," which includes men such as Berkshire County's Agrippa Hull. The program will be presented by **Jon Swan**, whose lecture on Mumbet is still remembered by Society members.

March 9: "Rattlesnakes of Berkshire County," including Sheffield's infamous snakes. Talk by Tom Tynning, a faculty member at Berkshire Community College.

April 13: To be announced

May 11: To be announced

June 8: Annual Meeting



****Look for details in the March newsletter concerning the spring "Berkshire Cottages" tour.**

November 18th Workshops

DECORATING GINGERBREAD COOKIES

Kids will create unique gifts from homemade cookies--all materials included. 10 am, Ages 7-12, \$10 (\$8 members). Parents welcome.

NUT TREE CENTERPIECE

Adults will cover cone-shaped forms with inspiration through the use of nuts, mini pine cones, and artificial fruit--BRING A GLUE GUN, all other materials included. 1 pm, \$18 (\$15 members).

Held in the Society's Education Center--Registration Required.

Membership renewal reminder:

Many SHS memberships expire in September. Look at your newsletter mailing label. If there's a (9/00) after your name, it is renewal time. A mailer is enclosed for those whose membership is past due.

Sheffield Historical Society
P.O. Box 747
Sheffield, MA

Wish List

If you have any of the following objects in good condition, but you no longer need the item, consider donating it to SHS. Monetary contributions to be used in purchasing the items are also welcome.

Adding machine with tape, floor lights, screw gun, glue & staple guns, folding chairs, WWI & WWII info, old scrapbooks

SHS in the News!

The Society's exhibition *Sheffield: Through the Lens of Carrie Smith Lorraine (1868-1935)* was given a full-page spread in the recent Massachusetts Foundations for the Humanities state-wide newsletter. If you would like to view the coverage, copies are available in the SHS Office.



THE 1834 STONE STORE--NOVEMBER 10

HOLIDAY STROLL--DECEMBER 8

On the move with the President and Director

During October, President Dorothy Marosy and Director Joanne Hurlbut were involved with outreach educational programming. A presentation was given to the full staff of Undermountain Elementary on the offerings of the Historical Society. With the assistance of James Miller and Marion Whitman, a new program on local cemeteries was started with 5th-grade students. This program includes graveyard architecture and first-person activities. Marosy and Hurlbut also traveled to Connecticut to attend workshops on fundraising and management.

Society Happenings:

- ❖ Five SHS historic quilts were exhibited at the Old Parish Quilt Show
- ❖ SHS received a \$600 grant from the local Cultural Council to support the Place in Time children's program
- ❖ The Carrie Smith Lorraine exhibit is traveling to two new locations--Mt. Everett High School and the Mason Library in Great Barrington
- ❖ Local TV station CTSB-11 will be airing a segment on the Society and its programs
- ❖ Several trees on the grounds have been removed and screening shrubs have been planted

GOING DOWN! Only one corner of the wooden addition remains in this view. Come to the November 8th SHS meeting and hear more of the story.

Scholar's Corner

9/16/00

Dear Sheffield Historical Society,

Greetings from Burlington! I am now almost three weeks into my first semester of college, and enjoying it very much. I have good classes all around, and I especially enjoy my Canadian History class. We just finished Black Robe by Brian Moore, and this November the class is traveling to the capital Ottawa. I thank all of you again for your very generous scholarship, and wish you the best!

Sincerely, Douglas Campbell



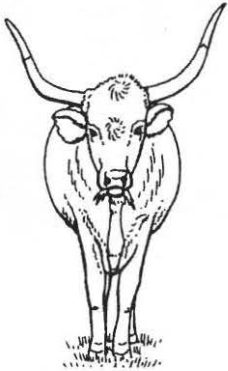
Are you looking for that special item to give this season? If so, stop in at the Dan Raymond House and view the items in our Museum Shop. Historic books, games, and many other items are available for sale. Proceeds benefit the Society's educational programs. Shop hours coincide with office hours: Monday through Friday, 10 am to 4 pm.





SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY SPRING NEWSLETTER 2001

SPRING EVENTS



Monthly Meetings:
7:30 pm
Dewey Memorial Hall
Free and open to the public

"Vengeance Trail," will be shown on Friday, April 13, 2001. In the mid 1950s, the late Donald Worthington of Great Barrington and a sizable cast of area

residents made a movie entitled "Vengeance Trail." The film features melodramatic scenes of shoot-outs, barroom brawls, and damsels in distress, with extensive footage shot in Sheffield's Goodale Quarry, off South Egremont Road. Famed characters such as Deadeye, Sapphire Sal, Horsehide, Stud, and the Can-Can Girls will bring new meaning to the good olde days of Sheffield. The requisite popcorn will be provided.

The campy 2-reel Western was stored away years ago and virtually forgotten. Gary Leveille, a local historian, recently rediscovered and then restored the film. "Vengeance Trail" was filmed in color, with occasional subtitles but no sound. Area residents who starred in or helped produce the film include Don Worthington Sr., Don Worthington Jr., George Membrino, Steve Collins, Skip Hall, Frank Rioux, Bill Latshaw, Zan Tidball, Jim Saunders, Henrietta Feldblum, Bev Latshaw, Alida Tidball, Marsh Giddings, Alan Macy, George Hayden, Louise Worthington, Harriet Collins, Corey Michaelyan, Jeanne DuVall, Nancy Dinan, and James Worthington.

"Restoration of the Gardens at the Mount" will be presented by Stephanie Copeland on Friday, May 11, 2001. Historic research has been underway for several years, and recent archaeological digs have unearthed the original design of Edith Wharton's Italianate gardens. Using the information from the site work and historic photographs, pathways, border stones, and even the original planting holes for an allee of linden trees have been discovered. This spring, the re-creation will begin with the planting of a large number of heirloom and contemporary plants. Copeland is the President and Executive Director of the Mount.

Spring Berkshire Cottages Tour:

In addition to her presentation on May 11, **Copeland will lead a tour of the Mount on Wednesday May 23.** Members will meet at the Society and carpool to the Mount, where the tour will begin at 10 am. This is a special preview tour being offered just for the Society. **Space is limited and registration is required;** call the Office at 229-2694. Fee: \$18 non-members, \$15 members.

Participants will dine a la carte at a local restaurant before traveling on to their second destination, Ventfort Hall. A 1:30 pm tour will showcase the recent restoration work at the Hall. Both these mansions of the "Gilded Age" present life from a bygone era. Travel back in time to the days of stately homes, servants, and the relaxed atmosphere found by many in their summer Berkshire homes.

Please note:
The March Meeting on Berkshire Snakes with Tom Tynning, cancelled due to inclement weather, will be rescheduled for the fall.

SMOKEHOUSE CELEBRATION

Restoration of the Smokehouse is almost complete. Before the snows set in, the majority of needed work was completed by Ernest Sattler; the final touches will be put on this spring. Join the members as they celebrate the rebuilding of this structure with an open house on Saturday, May 12 (rain date--Sunday, May 13), from 2 to 4 pm.

House tours will focus on food preparation and will conclude at the Smokehouse, which will be operational that day. The demonstration will include a sampling of foods preserved through smoking. Dennis Picard will be on hand to lead in the preservation process. Space is limited and reservations are strongly suggested. Fee \$10 non-members, \$8 members.

A special thank-you goes out to all who have donated time, services, and financial resources to this project. The contributions have fully funded the restoration! Those who have contributed funds since the November newsletter listing include:

Mr. & Mrs. F. James Dallett
Peter & Patricia Ruth Elsbach
William Grief
Sallee Hardy

in memory of Neal J. Hardy

Caroline Y. Lindemann

in memory of H. Stephen Casey, Jr.

Ronald & Judith Timm

Alice M. Warren

in memory of J. Wesley Warren

NEW JOINT PROGRAMS WITH THE TRUSTEES OF THE RESERVATIONS:

The Society will join with the Trustees to present two special family programs during the month of July: an "18th-Century Day" on Saturday the 7th and a special presentation focusing on Mumbet on

Wednesday the 18th. Look for more details in the June newsletter.



Memories from last year's Annual Meeting.
Photograph by Kathy Orlando.

June 8th is the date of this year's Annual Meeting. Mark your calendars!

Dan Raymond House Activities:

- ❖ A number of grant applications were completed during recent months, including the first Federal applications. Look for good news on this front in the June newsletter.
- ❖ Spring cleaning chores at the site will soon be underway. The Society is seeking volunteers to help with this year's intensive site cleaning. Would you volunteer for half a day? If yes, please call the Office at 229-2694.
- ❖ The House saw a number of visitors/groups by appointment during the winter months.
- ❖ May 26 is the start of the summer season and the Thursday through Saturday, 11am to 4pm hours resume.

OLD STONE STORE RESTORATION PROJECT UNDERWAY



The Old Stone Store, the oldest existing mercantile building in Sheffield, was constructed around 1830 by Major Eli Ensign with material from a local quarry. It is the oldest and most significant 19th-century stone structure in town, where historic stone buildings are exceedingly rare.

Sitting as it does in the center of Sheffield, directly in front of the Town Hall (which dates from the same era) and adjacent to Old Parish Church, it holds a prominent place historically and geographically in the community.

The Society purchased The Old Stone Store in the fall of 1999 and intends to restore the original stone portion. We plan to convert it to a space for permanent and rotating exhibits about Sheffield and the surrounding area, where the Society's extensive collection of artifacts and documents can be displayed, interpreted, and shared with the public to further understanding and appreciation of the historic and cultural heritage of Sheffield. In addition, the Society would like to establish a visitor information center that would feature, in particular, the many aspects of the southern Berkshires, which are important to the area's tourism industry.

A work plan, which divides the restoration project into two phases, has been established. It is expected that the exterior will be addressed between May and September of this year. Those efforts will include stabilizing the structure, installing a septic system and

handicapped-accessible entrance, stripping the roof shingles and applying cedar shingles, replacing the windows and storefront, and repairing and repointing the stonework.

Finances permitting, the interior work will begin in the fall. That will involve clearing the basement floor of silt and pouring a concrete slab; insulating and sheetrocking all walls and ceilings; installing an interior stairway; installing electrical, heating, air-conditioning, and plumbing systems; painting; finishing the floors and adding interior trim.

The Society has applied to the Special Projects Fund of MassDevelopment for a loan in the amount of \$180,000 to finance this endeavor. The income from our investment portfolio does not provide a sufficient revenue stream to meet both the annual operating budget of the Society and finance the Old Stone Store renovations. Hence the need for the loan, which will be amortized over twenty-five years. It is expected that between contributions and fund-raising efforts, the loan will be repaid in advance of that time, and with no prepayment penalty.

A committee of local citizens, some of whom are Society members, has been established to (1) create an awareness of and support for the Old Stone Store, (2) identify individuals and businesses willing to support the restoration project, financially or otherwise, (3) identify components of a visitor information center to recommend to the Society's Trustees, and (4) consider participation in a community-wide endeavor to promote the attributes of Sheffield and Ashley Falls, and to garner support for the project.

Suggestions as to how to further the restoration effort are welcome and may be directed to Catherine Miller, Project Coordinator, Dorothy Marosy, Society President, or Joanne Hurlbut, Director.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

The Society has a number of programs scheduled for the spring of 2001. Do you enjoy working with people, children through seniors? If so, please consider joining the Society's educational staff, who give tours, work with students, and share Sheffield's history with the public at large. The audiences are all around us. Now we need to ensure that there are enough volunteers to greet our visitors.

In May, elementary students will be educated through the "Place in Time" program. The Society will host the Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce's May "Business After Hours." June will see the Dan Raymond House open for "Discovering the Berkshires Week." All of these events will require several staff to guide visitors through the buildings. In addition to the Dan Raymond House's regularly scheduled Thursday-through-Saturday hours, the May 12 Smokehouse Celebration and the July 7 "18th-Century Day" include site tours.

Training for guides in 2001 will take place over three sessions and will include reading materials and hands-on experiences. The sessions will be held at the end of April and the beginning of May, and will be scheduled to allow participation by all interested parties. For those with the gift of gab or the desire to share history with new audiences--this is your opportunity. The Society will ask for a minimum time commitment, which can be easily fitted into your schedule.

Please call the Office to register for training or to learn more about the joys of guiding! Present guides will be happy to talk with you about the job.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS at the CENTER

The Mark Dewey Research Center has received an important gift from Oliver and Evelyn Willcox: alumni reunion programs for Sheffield High School from the turn of the 20th century. Much of their value lies in the student class lists they contain, which span many years of the high school's operation. The value of the programs is compounded by the fact that the names on the list are annotated with the graduates' most recent town of residence. This is a tremendous help to researchers trying to document when residents lived here and when they moved away. The years from the late 1800s to the present are the most difficult for researchers at the Center to document because so many sources for that period are closed for privacy reasons. Oliver and Evelyn have now made the work a bit easier.

If you have an interest in Sheffield marble, especially as it relates to the Sheffield marble in the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C., you owe a hearty thanks to Natalie Funk, who recently made a significant gift of relevant material to the Center. It consists of copies of correspondence Natalie had with the superintendent of the recent renovations to the Monument and a book on the subject, which includes recognition of the Sheffield marble it contains. There are also some rare insights into local quarries, the Briggs Quarry in particular, which supplied the stone. Interesting reading it is. Like all of our collection it is non-circulating, but drop by some Monday or Friday afternoon, 1:30 to 4:00 when we are open and browse through it. Very interesting, indeed.

THE SHORT-LIVED MASSACHUSETTS LIME COMPANY

For history buffs who would enjoy an industrial archeology excursion in an exquisite setting of nature, a trip to the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Mount Everett Wildlife Sanctuary, sandwiched between Barnum Street and Silver Street, would be worthwhile. The 215-acre preserve, home to an abandoned lime kiln, was a gift in 1990 from Edna Sheinhart (1923-1995), whose ashes are interred there. For many years Miss Sheinhart, a retired mathematics teacher, had a home in a converted barn on Silver Street.

Adjacent to the industrial site is an open hillside meadow of several acres where you can enjoy a lunch while taking in some prize Berkshire views from the shaded bench that was placed there for that purpose. The distant, classic, Berkshire Mountain views are 180 degrees to the west, north, and east. It is a fine spot for enjoying nature or contemplating the history of the nearby kiln or whatever is on your mind.

The ruins are of the Massachusetts Lime Company and they appear on a hillside, seemingly out of nowhere, along the trail that leads to the meadow. The monolith structure rises perhaps 30 feet into the air and is made of poured concrete, somewhat resembling an agricultural silo. From the top of this chimney wood fuel and chunks of local marble were loaded, and at the structure's base the finished product was extracted after the heating process. It is a curious thing to see in the middle of the woods, so overgrown by nature and yet still such an intrusion, even in the quietude of its abandoned and dilapidated condition. Its sudden appearance on the trail arouses questions of its origins and the story it has to tell.

Records at the Mark Dewey Research Center provided some information. The kiln was operated by the Massachusetts Lime Company, which in 1909 purchased 90 acres of land where the structure was built, secured by a mortgage for \$1,200 held by Alfred W. Minor of New Haven, who acted as conservator for one William C. Minor. The company's president was Edward E. Minor, who resided at 493 Edgewood Avenue in New Haven, Connecticut. Although there is likely a family connection among the three, their exact

relationships are unknown. Nor is it known why this remote spot was chosen for the kiln. By 1912 the company was out of business.

During its operation, stone quarried nearby was hauled to the kiln, heated, and converted to lime. The finished product was transported on a company-built road that went east through the Barnum Street Swamp to the Housatonic Railroad line near Route 7, a little over one mile distant. The raised roadway is not only clearly visible today, it is also still usable and provides a convenient and dry access through the swamp to the site. To pull the wagon loads of lime along the roadway, the company had two oxen and seven horses. Other than the president and Albert M. Turner, the treasurer, who lived in nearby Canaan, Connecticut, the small operation employed few others. James H. Bailey, Sr., his son James H. Jr., Henry Parsons, who boarded at the Bailey residence, and Harry P. Tripp, all residents of Silver Street, are the only employees whose names show up in a check of both Canaan and Sheffield records. Bailey, Sr. was clerk and manager and Tripp was employed as the operation's carpenter. In a 1910 ad the company advertised "High Grade Common and Finishing Limes." The days of the enterprise were few, however, and by August of 1912 the company had sold its 90 acres and a Barnum Street property they owned and were out of business. On a happy note, the record indicates that two mortgage holders, both the conservator of William C. Minor and Seth F. Dusenbury of Sheffield, were paid off on September 3 and 6 respectively of that year.

The site is equally accessible summer and winter by cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or on foot, and takes from as little as 40 or 45 minutes, round-trip, to as long as you wish. Visitors have a choice of beginning at Barnum Street, Silver Street, or Root Lane, although Silver Street is the closest starting point to the venue. So, whether your interest is nature or history, a trip to the kiln and a visit to the meadow are well worth the time. The two attractions are, unfortunately, well-kept secrets even though they truly are two of Sheffield's treasures. For those who know of them, however, the infrequent visitors make them even more special.

James Miller

Spring Workshop--June 9

CREATE YOUR OWN TAPED STOOL

Learn the art of Shaker chair taping while you complete a small stool for your home or office. All materials included. 10 am, \$50 (\$48 members).

**Held in the Society's Education Center--
Registration Required by May 23rd.**

Are you looking for that special something to do this fall? Do you have suggestions for workshops that the Society could offer? Call the Office at 229-2694 with your ideas.

Festival of Country Arts & Artisans:

Due to a number of factors, the Board decided to move the Festival date forward in August. Unfortunately, many artisans had conflicts with the new date. In order to preserve the quality of the event, the decision was reached to ***cancel the event for 2001***. Look for it again in 2002.

Sheffield Historical Society
P.O. Box 747
Sheffield, MA

Wish List

If you have any of the following objects in good condition, but you no longer need the item, consider donating it to SHS. Monetary contributions to be used in purchasing the items are also welcome.

Television and VCR, floor lights, screw gun, glue & staple guns, WWI & WWII info, old scrapbooks

Spring Arrivals for the Shop!

A number of new items will be arriving at the Society Shop in the next few weeks. Stop in and check things out!

During the month of May, members in good standing will receive a 10% discount on their shop purchases.

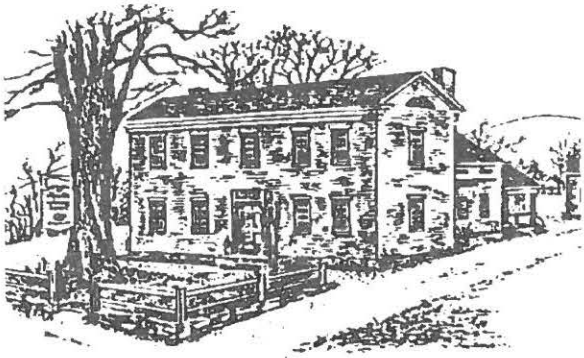
Membership renewal reminder:

A mailer is enclosed for those whose membership is past due.

Don't Miss These!
Don't Miss These!

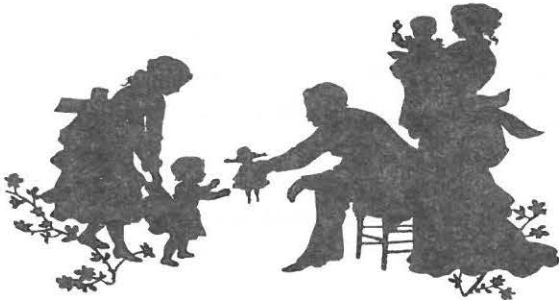
SMOKEHOUSE CELEBRATION--MAY 26

ANNUAL MEETING--JUNE 8



SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2001

NEW JOINT PROGRAMS WITH THE TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS:



Join the Sheffield Historical Society and the Trustees of Reservations as they combine their resources to celebrate the Colonial era in **"Eighteenth Century Day-- A Family Celebration, Saturday, July 7, 2001, from 12 to 5 pm.** The Dan Raymond House and the Colonel Ashley House will be open for tours, demonstrations, and hands-on activities. Spend an hour or two at each site and discover the contributions made by our local founding fathers to the Revolutionary cause.

At the Sheffield Historical Society's 1774 Dan Raymond House, special notice will be taken of forest resources. The versatility of wood for the Revolutionary home will be examined as families view the way cooking utensils, tools, furniture, and buildings were constructed out of local materials. Demonstrations of woodworking techniques will be given by Boyd Hutchison, a skilled craftsman in Shaker and period furniture including Windsor chairs. Dennis Picard will be on hand to operate the Society's recently restored smokehouse, and he will also demonstrate weaving the all-purpose carrying container, the basket. Hands-on

carrying container, the basket. Hands-on activities and games such as hoop-and-stick will also focus on wood.

The Colonel Ashley House, operated by the Trustees of Reservations, will offer programming that focuses on material culture. A "What's-It Tour for Children" will be offered. Hands-on activities include hearing the story of the Sheffield Declaration, working with parchment papers and quill pens, and constructing 18th-century-style fans.

Travel time between the two sites is ten minutes. Admission at each site is half-price for adults, with children and members free.

Join **Mary Wilds**, an author for the Young Adult Series, as she presents a family program on Mumbet, ***The Life and Times of Elizabeth Freeman--The True Story of a Slave that Won her Freedom***, on **Wednesday, July 18, 2001, at 7 pm.** The event will take place at the Bushnell-Sage Library. The event is free.



Mumbet is Sheffield's most renowned 18th-century female. Her story is told throughout the nation due to its impact on the abolition of slavery, especially in Massachusetts. Mary Wilds' recent publication paints a picture of the historic times through which Mumbet lived. Wilds' book makes Mumbet's story readily available to today's youth.



THE 29TH ANNUAL MEETING

Program Committee

The programs committee consisted of Bruce Howden, Doreen Atwood, Dorothy Marosy, Joanne Hurlbut, and Kathie Ness.

The monthly programs were well attended in 2000-2001.

In September, Ronald Jones, president of the Falls Village - Canaan Historical Society, spoke about the history of the iron industry in the tri-state area. This was followed two weeks later by a field trip to Beckley Furnace in Canaan, led by Ed Kirby.

For the October program, Carol Owens, author of *The Berkshire Cottages*, gave a slide show and talk about the general background of the Gilded Age.

In November, Catherine Miller gave a kick-off report on the developments in the renovation plans for the Stone Store.

December saw the Society enjoying another Holiday Stroll and a very successful silent auction of decorated Christmas trees, coordinated by Rene Wood and James Miller.

In January our annual What's-It Night was especially well attended.

In February, Jon Swan, journalist and author, spoke to the Society about the role of African-American soldiers during the Revolutionary War in a program entitled "America's Forgotten Patriots." The March program was canceled due to inclement weather. We have arranged for the speaker to come in the fall of 2001.

In April we enjoyed an evening of home-grown cinema, presented by Gary Leveille -- a silent western, "The Vengeance Trail," filmed in the 1950s, much of it shot in a Sheffield quarry and in other local spots, and featuring area residents. Popcorn and root beer rounded out an evening of fun.

Stephanie Copeland, director of The Mount, was the speaker at the May meeting. She gave a slide program on the history of Edith Wharton and The Mount. This was followed ten days later by a field trip to The Mount and Ventfort Hall in Lenox, with lunch at Lenox 128.

The June meeting will be our regular Annual Meeting, followed by an "ice cream social."

Plans are under way for the upcoming year. The opening program on September 14 will feature Stuart Murray, author of "A Time of War," a book about the role of Berkshire County residents during the Civil War.

As always, we are grateful to the volunteers who help set up the room and who provide the excellent refreshments at the conclusion of the Friday evening meetings.

Respectfully submitted, Kathie Ness

Mark Dewey Research Center

The Mark Dewey Research Center has had a busy and successful year. We are open Monday and Friday afternoons and by appointment. Our volunteers have given 1500 hours working at the Center.

We have worked with a group of students from Mt. Everett who took pictures of Sheffield as it is today, as compared to pictures we have in our collection of Sheffield as it was in the 1920s.

Members of a history class at Berkshire School visited Center Cemetery and each student selected a gravesite to research. We went to Berkshire School and gave them information about the person they had selected and some history of Sheffield.

We have worked with the Sheffield Land Trust and a committee from Our Lady of the Valley who will be using copies of our picture collection.

Our collection has been added to from donations of books, letters, pictures, scrapbooks, and journals. We have also purchased some primary and secondary source material.

In the near future we will be moving our fiche readers and modem downstairs. This will make it better for researchers and the volunteers and provide more working and storage space upstairs.

We have been getting ready for a CAP evaluation, which will be help us in preservation, conservation, and when seeking grants in the future.

The Center helped 190 on-site visitors and answered 25 e-mails and many telephone inquiries this year.

Committee: Doreen Atwood, Betty Dunk, Eleanor Griffiths, James Miller, Archivist, David Prouty, and Pauline Dennis Schumann.

Respectfully submitted, Betty Chapin

Nominating Committee

The Board of Trustees for 2001-2002 is as follows:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
President	Dorothy Marosy	2002
Vice-Pres	Katherine Ness	2002
Clerk	Harry Conklin	2003
Treasurer*	Catherine Miller	2004
Trustee*	Wray Gunn	2003
Trustee	Doreen Atwood	2003
Trustee	Marilyn Wightman	2002
Trustee	James Miller	2003
Trustee*	Rene Wood	2003

(*elected 6/8/01)

Road Cleanup Report

Our Society continued its participation in the MA Highway Department "Adopt-a-Highway" Program. A hardy group of our members assembled at seven o'clock on several mornings to keep our assigned miles on Route 7 tidy and free of litter.

Many thanks to that clean-up committee, which included: Catherine and Jim Miller, Rene Wood and Dennis Sears, Marilyn and John Wightman, Kathy Orlando, Janny VanHouwelingen, Harry Conklin, Fred Gordon, Sally Kelly, Kathie Ness, Tom Garrett, Virginia Drury, (and myself, Nancy Elliott).

Nancy Elliott

Director's Report

At the conclusion of my second year here in Sheffield, I am happy to report that many of the statements I made in my report last year are still true. I can always find volunteers to help me with the varied tasks that need doing, even when those tasks involve contact with creepy crawly things, the animal web kingdom, and tasks that are necessary but unglamorous. This year's spring-cleaning was a monumental job! The stalwart crew was sent into every corner of every building of the

Treasurer's Report

Income July 2000--June 2001

OPERATING FUND

Memberships	\$2,298
Donations	14,945
Admissions	491
Publications	1,335
Bank Interest	102
Transfer from Development	98,500

EDUCATION FUND

Field Trips/Wkshp	862
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SPECIAL EVENTS

Grants/sponsors	8,806
Admissions	2,956
Food	1,664
Souvenirs	2,214

MARK DEWEY RC

Donation	714
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ACCESSIONS FUND

Deaccessions	6,567
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TOTAL: \$141,454

Expenses July 2000--June 2001

OPERATING FUND

Grounds Care	\$2,866
Building Upkeep	4,626
Capital Building	6,000
Utilities	5,700
Housekeeping	450
Printed Supplies	850
Office Supplies	1,600
Postage	900
Meeting Expense	250
Insurance	4,762
Security	204
Accounting/Legal	1,500
Membership Fees	677
Books, Journals	25
Salary of Director	30,000
Fed & St Taxes	3,300
Seminars	454

EDUCATION FUND

Field Trip/Wkshp	775
Scholarship	0

SPECIAL EVENTS

Publicity	\$2,876
Logistics	3,390
Food	632
Souvenirs	1,083
Entertainment	824

MARK DEWEY RC

Printed Supplies	38
Office Supplies	1,020
Reference " "	1,361
Conservation	362

ACCESSIONS

Preservation of Collections	425
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STONE STORE

Fees/Taxes	5,503
Construction	40,563

TOTAL: \$123,016

Respectfully submitted,
Carl L. Proper, Treasurer

Development Fund

The Trustees upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee engaged PaineWebber to manage the Society's portfolio. The funds were invested late in the summer in five managed accounts--Brandes Partners, Groupama, Kayne-Anderson and Wentworth, and a bond fund--all in accordance with the Investment Policy that was developed. Three of the managed funds and the bond fund performed well in spite of the downswing in the market. The fourth fund had a less successful year but is beginning to turn around. As of May 21, 2001, the investment account totaled about \$825,000. The Finance Committee continues to monitor the funds and meets periodically throughout the year with the investment advisor from PaineWebber to make certain the monies are managed in accordance with the policies established by the Society. Since the Society is dependent upon earnings from the portfolio for its operation, it is important that prudent management is practiced.

Catherine Miller

Society's holdings--attics, basements, collections rooms, and all the storage areas. I waited two years (the buildings waited decades) to clean out some of those areas, so my heartfelt thanks go out to the crew! Doreen Atwood and Rene Wood readied the Dan Raymond House for visitors. Catherine Miller and Jim Miller helped with the non-collections areas. Jim gets the Transfer Station award for all the runs he made to that facility. Julie Otty, the Society's new housekeeper, attacked the bugs in all the worst places with great vigor. President Marosy readied the collections storage areas. The transformation is wonderful--stop in and check things out. For those of you who missed this year's cleaning--we will do it again next year. Just asks anyone involved how satisfied they were with the results. The spirit of volunteerism by these and other Society volunteers continues to amaze my colleagues.

In addition to the regular events schedule of monthly meetings and programs such as the cemetery walk, a number of new outreach programs occurred. Society volunteers made these events a huge success. The Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce "After Business Meeting" brought 45 people on-site. Many were unfamiliar with our institution when they came, but they walked away impressed by what we have to offer. The Society participated in this year's celebration of *Berkshires Week*. A press conference was held at The Mount with all participating organizations of the Cultural Alliance, of which we are now a participating member. As a part of the conference, a Civil War letter from our MDRC collection was dramatically read. The room grew silent as this document was made alive for the audience. In general, press coverage for the Society for the year has been strong.

The Carrie Smith Lorraine exhibition has simultaneously been on view at the Mason Library in Great Barrington and the Mt. Everett High School in Sheffield. Comments from both sites have been positive and the audiences are appreciative of our collections breadth; hundreds of people have viewed the

exhibition at these sites. All these factors are raising the Society's profile in the community.

This past year also brought a significant rise in the number of people attending programs and visiting the site. The visitors to the site have come in groups, such as the Berkshire Choral Festival, or as individuals. The Place in Time program for elementary students remains popular and this past year saw the first school group attend a new cemetery program. The students learned about cemetery architecture, had first-person encounters with past Sheffield residents, and made grave rubbings.

The scope of activity for the year, which included the restoration and celebration of the Smokehouse along with the other previously mentioned events, is impressive. It has impressed the agencies to which we have applied for grants--our success rate is remarkable. I cannot thank all of you enough for your help and support. Let's keep this momentum up! I look forward to another year at the Society, a place that some are now calling a hidden gem in the Southern Berkshires.

Joanne Hurlbut

President's Remarks

During this first year of my term as president, I got my feet wet. Next year I will take the plunge.

It was deemed necessary by the Trustees to cancel the Artisan's Festival this year. Although it was a success in many ways, it did not turn a profit.

Last fall the Smokehouse was moved from the Christ Church property to the Historical Society campus. As a result of the generosity of a number of donors, it was restored and used for the first time in May, and is now part of the Place in Time program.

As a result of receiving the IMLS grant, we were visited by a consultant on June 6 & 7. In anticipation of this on-site assessment, much cleaning and reorganizing was done. We were congratulated on the fine job we are doing in preserving our collections. However, improvements need to be made in storage of artifacts, controlling the environment, safety procedures, and more efficient use of space, to list just a few. My thanks to all who worked so hard.

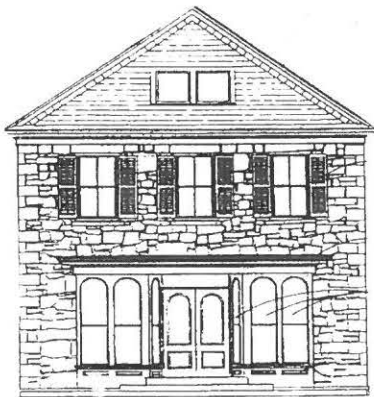
Our monthly meetings, Cemetery Walk, and Holiday Stroll continue to draw an audience from neighboring communities, as well as Sheffield.

Through Joanne's efforts, the Society has been the recipient of approximately \$9,000 in grants this year.

I want to thank Joanne and the Trustees for supporting me and all our activities. They are a hands-on board, and always respond when help is needed. Volunteers from the general membership continue to contribute their time, and I look forward to working with you next year.

Dorothy Marosy

Stone Store Update

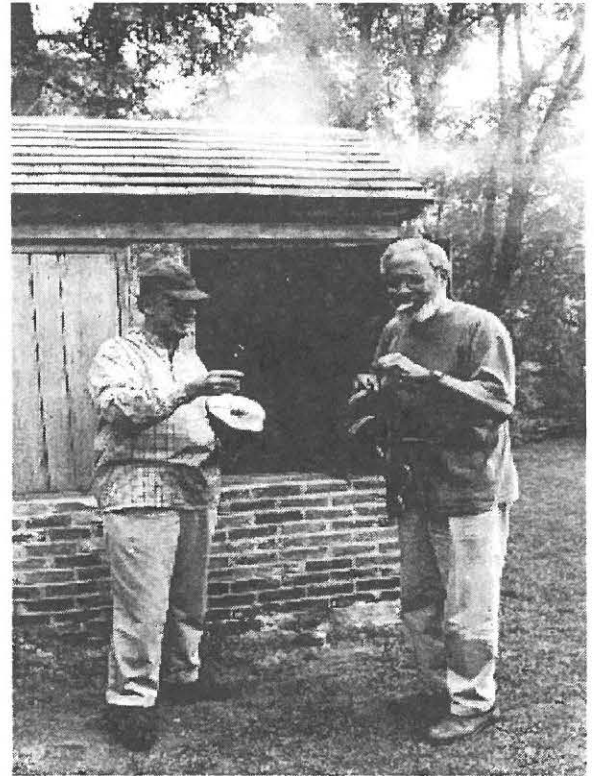


Restoration work on the Stone Store began this spring. Crews working on the interior have removed all materials to the point where the stone walls are now fully visible. Structural support work and work on the basement is also in progress. The "quiet phase" of the fundraising campaign is now in full swing. As a part of this effort, a brochure highlighting the Store's history has been created and is available at the Society office.

Stone Store Raffle

Grace Wallace Brown has made possible a fundraising project for the Stone Store. Through her efforts, artist Regi Klein has provided the Society with one of her paintings at a significantly reduced rate. The artwork features Main Street in Sheffield, including the Stone Store and the Dan Raymond House.

The Society is now raffling off this artwork for \$10 a ticket; her art normally sells at \$1,000 per painting. Support the Society and contemporary artists by buying one, two, or even ten tickets! The drawing will take place at this year's Holiday Stroll. Tickets can be obtained at the Society office.



There's nothing quite like that home smoked flavor!

James Miller and John James at the Smokehouse Opening Celebration. Photo: Kathy Orlando

Scholars' Corner

This year's recipient of the Sheffield Historical Society Scholarship is Dylan Moulton. He will attend Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA, where he will pursue a degree in political science.

Grant Awards

The Sheffield Historical Society has recently been the recipient of three grant awards, for our programming, building restoration, and collections preservation efforts.

The Sheffield Cultural Council has for the third consecutive year awarded a grant to the Society for its "Place in Time" program for elementary students. This year's award is for \$100. The continued support of the Council enables the Society to purchase equipment for enhancing the student's on-site visits. The Sheffield Cultural Council is a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

The Lenox Garden Club awarded the Society a grant of \$2,500 in order to create a landscape plan for the Stone Store. The plan will be implemented in the open space, behind the Stone Store, adjacent to the Old Parish Church grounds, and in front of the Town Hall. The garden design will include varied plantings and benches in order to create a public space for residents and visitors alike to relax and enjoy the heart of Sheffield. Jeffrey Steele of Ashley Falls Nursery is serving as the garden consultant for this project. Once the major phases of construction at the Stone Store are completed, the garden will be installed.

Each year, the Lenox Garden Club makes awards to local organizations undertaking landscape projects such as the Society. Funding for these awards comes from the Lenox Garden Club's annual Garden and House tour. This year's tour will take place on Saturday, July 14th.

The Society is a recipient of the 2001 Conservation Assessment Program Grant (CAP). The Society was selected as one of 147 organizations across the nation to receive this award, which is a building block in collections management and serves as a cornerstone for future collections/preservation grant applications. *CAP supports a two-day visit by conservation professional that reviews the overall condition of the museum's collection, the physical storage and exhibitions conditions, and the collection practices, among other factors. The assessment helps museums establish goals so that their holdings can be preserved and made available to the public for years to come.*

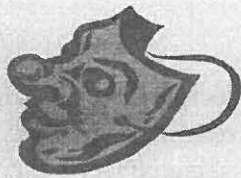
The Historical Society's grant award was \$6,370; these funds will be used to bring CAP consultants to the site. The Society was fortunate to have two well-known experts in their fields agree to work with us on this assessment. Lori K. van Handel of Heritage Conservation Services of Williamstown, the collections reviewer, completed her two-day site evaluation last week. Her formal written report on the present collections conditions and suggestions for future action will be received by the Society within the month. There is room for improvement in storage and environment, but the overall analysis of the job the Society is doing to care for its collection was highly positive. Hats off to the Society members who have collected, organized, and maintained this collection over the years! The building's assessor, Andrea M. Gilmore of Building Conservation Associates Inc. from Dedham, MA, will be here in September. The Society seeks to join the over 95% of organizations that have received these awards and then have gone on to fulfill a majority of the recommendations.

The Society has also been selected for inclusion in an IMLS survey. The Center for Organizational Excellence is conducting a "Technology Survey for Libraries and Museums" for IMLS. The information gathered will be presented to Congress and also used by other associations to help determine future plans, especially in the field of digitization.



INSTITUTE of MUSEUM
and LIBRARY SERVICES

The Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency that fosters innovation, leadership and a lifetime of learning, supports the Sheffield Historical Society.



Are you willing to show that hidden side of your personality? The Society is in search of first-person characters for two upcoming events.

The Massachusetts Turnpike Authority has awarded a grant to the Berkshire Visitors Bureau to highlight local organizations. We will present the Society to the public at the Lee tourism center on Sunday, October 7, from 11 am to 2 pm. Those who have acted for us in the last two cemetery walks may reprise their roles. New roles such as the Raymond family will debut. Those who will portray a character in the cemetery walk this fall can use this as a dress rehearsal. The Society will receive a significant contribution for this effort. JOIN US!

The Cemetery Walk will take place on Saturday, October 13, from 5 to 7 pm. We need those modern spirits to help us interpret the past.

Call the Office at 229-2694 to sign-up for a role.

Wish List

If you have any of the following objects in good condition, but you no longer need the item, consider donating it to SHS. Monetary contributions to be used in purchasing the items are also welcome.

Cotton sheets, flashlights, scissors, floor lights, screw gun, glue & staple guns, WWI & WWII info, old scrapbooks

Barrington Stage Company Complimentary Tickets Available

Society members are invited to the Barrington Stages' opening production *On The Twentieth Century*, a Tony award winning musical comedy. Tickets are available on a first come basis for the Friday, June 22, 8 pm show or the Sunday, June 24, 5 pm performance. Call their box office at 528-8888.

Membership renewal reminder:

A mailer is enclosed for those whose membership is past due.

Sheffield Historical Society
P.O. Box 747
Sheffield, MA

Don't Miss These!
Don't Miss These!

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY DAY--JULY 7

MUMBET FAMILY PROGRAM--JULY 18



Sheffield Historical Society

Fall 2001 Newsletter

Artist's Work is Stone Store Fundraiser

Stone Store construction update:

The new cedar shake roof has been completed.

The masonry work is almost complete.

Many of the windows are in place.

Take a walk by the store and note the exterior woodwork!

How does one become an artist? Regi Klein states, "I never decided to become an artist - I always remember being one. From an early age on it was a part of me, taken for granted, just like breathing. I did study at various art schools, both in this country (The Art Institute of Chicago and Bennington College), and abroad (Paris and Mexico City), taking in what I wanted, rejecting what I did not want in order to develop my own personal, naïf style of expression." The Regi Klein artwork fundraiser was made possible through the efforts of Designs by Grace.

The artwork, *The Town Common*, is in the American primitive style, reminding the

viewer of another regional artist, Grandma Moses. The oil painting features Main Street in Sheffield, including the Stone Store, the Dan Raymond House, the Old Parish Church, the Sheffield Town Hall, and the Miller Hotel (now the site of Gulotta Brothers gas station). In the foreground are several of the town's citizens, circa 1900, engaged in their daily activities. Klein's work has won a number of awards, hangs in private collections such as The Red Lion Inn in Stockbridge, and has been exhibited across the country from the Universities of Miami and Notre Dame, to the Morris and Waverly Galleries in New York.

Klein's art normally sells at \$1,000 per painting. Support



Regi Klein's rendition of the Stone Store from her work "The Town Common." Tickets available at the Society office, \$10.

the Society and contemporary artists by buying one, two, or even ten tickets! The drawing will take place at this year's Holiday Stroll in early December, just in time for gift-giving. Tickets can be obtained by calling 229-2694.

Stone Store Ice Cream Social on September 8th

Special points of interest:

- ♦ Fall Calendar of Events
- ♦ Sheffield in Celebration

A stroll down Main Street in Sheffield on Saturday, September 8th, from 4 to 8 pm, will prove a most entertaining experience! Join your friends and neighbors as they come out to celebrate Sheffield, its culture, its history and its citizens.



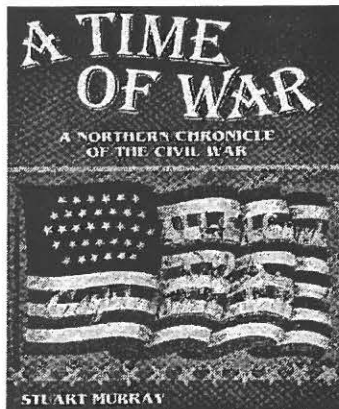
As a part of this Sheffield in Celebration, the Historical Society will be holding an Ice Cream Social.

Funds raised through the selling of ice cream, especially a brownie sundae, will go towards

restoration of the Stone Store. Meet us in front of the Store; you will see its progress and be able to enjoy dessert at the same time!

Cookies will also be on sale. Care to bake for this event, call 229-2694.

September



Sheffield In Celebration: A week-long town celebration, including an ice cream social to support the restoration of the Stone Store on Saturday, September 8. Look for further details in this newsletter. For additional information and a schedule of events call the Society office at 229-2694.

Monthly Meeting

September 14: "A Time of War: A Northern Chronicle of the Civil War" with Stuart Murray.

Have you heard the story of Charles Bartholomew from Sheffield who at

age eighteen was buried alongside the Mississippi? Surely you have heard of the Union army's chief engineer, General Barnard of Sheffield? Whether or not you know these names, join the members of the Sheffield Historical Society as they encounter the lives of Berkshire county residents at war. (7:30 pm in Dewey Memorial Hall.)

Drawing upon Berkshire County diaries, letters, military reports, church journals, and even gravestones, Stuart Murray tells the stories of New England Civil War families including men from the famed 54th regiment.

October



Mt. Everett Sanctuary Hike.

October 10: Wednesday,

9 am to 12 pm.

Enjoy the local foliage while hearing about Sheffield industry! James Miller, Archivist at SHS will discuss the lime kiln located on the property. Laura Beltran of the Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuaries will lead the tour and discuss the natural aspects of the area. Bring a snack and dress appropriately. Fee \$8 non-members, \$6 members.

Registration required.

Monthly Meeting—October 12:

"Where Did They Go?"

Have you ever wondered what it was really like in days gone by? At the turn of 20th century people lamented the modern age—indoor plumbing and a private outhouse? There was a sadness at the loss of the conversations which used to take place in those multi-stall privies! Want to learn more about daily life? Come and listen as David Dashiell, Director of the Bidwell House, presents an analysis of the outhouse (Friday at 7:30 pm).

Spirits of Sheffield Cemetery Walk, Saturday, October 13

Spirits of Sheffield Cemetery

Walk. Make contact with the voices from Sheffield's past in this evening of spiritual communications. Sackett Cemetery, Ashley Falls, Saturday, 5 to 7 pm, fee.

Spirits are needed for this event! Volunteer to do a first person inter-

pretation or to guide those who come to take the journey back in time.

On October 7th the Society will be presenting a special program in Lee using this year's spirits and reprising roles from yesteryear. Volunteers are needed. Please call the office at 229-2694, and join in the fun!



Roscoe C. Taft, a Lt in the Massachusetts 49th Infantry during the Civil War invites you to join him at this year's Cemetery Stoll.

The Civil War: Music and Writings of the Berkshires Sunday, October 21, 2 pm, Old Parish Church

A program to benefit the restoration of the 1834 Stone Store.

The music and words of Sheffield's Civil War residents will again be heard as performers including John-Arthur Miller and Julianne Boyd take to the stage.

Sheffield native George Frederick Root was a composer of popular Civil War music. He authored songs such as *Just Before the Bat-*

tle, Mother, The Vacant Chair, Battle Cry of Freedom, and Tramp! Tramp! Tramp! His compositions will be given voice by John-Arthur Miller, a bass-baritone and an opera soloist with the Berkshire Choral Festival. His roles include touring with the New York City Opera National Company.

Julianne Boyd of Barrington Stage will be among those reading from the

soldiers diaries and letters, including descriptions by Robert Hale Kellogg who was imprisoned at Andersonville.

Tickets \$15. A reception will follow.

Did you know: the clock tower of Old Parish Church was donated by Orville Dewey in honor of G.F. Root? Or that the funds raised from across the country purchased the clocked installed in the tower to perpetuate Root's memory?



November—Monthly Meeting

On Friday November 9, *Snakes of Berkshire County with Tom Tynning* will be back. This event was cancelled due to inclement weather this past spring. Tynning's presentation will introduce you to the 10 or so species of snakes found in the region, including the area's one venomous snake, the Timber rattlesnake. Tynning has just completed a six-year study of this creature!



Gala Holiday Events Planned

This holiday season will be made even more special with several SHS holiday events:



Festival of Trees Silent Auction. Back again by popular demand, we'll be offering a wonderful selection of unique trees – all created by members and friends of the Sheffield Historical Society. It's not too early to be thinking about creating a special tree. Call Rene Wood (229-2875) or Jim Miller (229-8668) if you'd like to donate a tree to this major fundraiser for the Stone Store. Also featured: lunch, holiday raffles, a holiday quilt and boxwood trees. Save Saturday, December 1 for a fun filled day.



Holiday Wreaths. This year we'll be taking pre-paid orders for holiday wreaths. While more details will be announced in the next newsletter, you'll want to make sure we're your source for all your wreath needs. Currently we're planning to offer 3 sizes and prices so we'll have a special wreath for everyone's budget. Samples will be available so you'll see exactly what you're ordering. We're confident you'll be just as excited about this as we are! All proceeds will benefit the Stone Store.

Holiday Ties workshop. Ever wondered how they make those fabulous holiday bows? And wish you could? This workshop will teach you how to

make fabulous bows using both wired and unwired ribbon. You see how its done and then make three great bows to take with you for your holiday decorating.

Holiday Stroll. A wonderful stroll is being planned for this year. It will be our grand finale for the 2001 holiday season. It promises to be exciting and put us all in the mood for the rest of December and the New Year.

As always, many volunteer opportunities are available. These are fun events, so call the Society at 229- 2694 and volunteer to be part of the holiday magic.

Mark Dewey Research Center Archives

Sheffield Historical Society--Mark Dewey Research Center collection document. Letter written on December 20, 1864 by John B. Roys to his niece Martha Roys Scott.

John Roys was the son of Levi and Thankful Curtiss Roys. He was born in Sheffield in 1824. He left home as a young man; he participated in the California Gold Rush and the Civil War. Roys died in 1891.

Camp near Savannah, Ga. Dec. 20, 1864

My dear Martha,

Yours came duly to hand. I thank you for the trouble you are to in writing to an old soldier, and assure you that if it increases your own happiness, as I trust it does to make others happy, then you are well paid for the time and labor expended on my account. The reception of a friendly letter when lying as I was when yours was received, in the trenches around a besieged city, with nothing to do but listen to the continual whizzing of bullets, and the roar of cannon, and the bursting of shell overhead, relieves the oppression of the spirits, and makes the thoughts return to more pleasant scenes and associations.

You think that though my hair may be grey, my heart is still young. It may be that I have not learned to distrust assurances of friendship, for I believe when anyone says 'I like you, but alas, no

more no more, no never more on me the freshness of the heart shall fall like dew. Which out of all the lovely things we see, extracts emotions, beautiful and new but though the day of my destinys' over, and the star of my face hath declined, I am yet glad some fond hearts refuse to discover the faults which so many can find. I would believe though I have found them not, that there may be, words that are true, hopes that will not deceive and virtues that are merciful, nor weave snares for the failing. I would also deem, or'e others faults that some sincerely grieve. That two or one are almost what they seem that friendship is no name, and happiness no dream.

I have no idea what would be a suitable subject for composition in your circumstances. Your thought of falling leaves is good, and I have no doubt of your ability to do it justice. I do not urge you to send your photo in every letter, because although I should esteem it a great favor, too much solicitation might be disagreeable to you. Thank Graham for me for his appendix. Tell him I voted for Lincoln because I think he holds to the principles of the Democratic of Douglas time, while the present Democratic party are willing to do anything for power, even to the destruction of the Union.

I suppose you want to know something of our movements as soldiers. We left Dalton, Ga. I think the 28th of October.

We marched over the same route previously taken by Sherman in his forward movement, and after several days stopping at Kingston and Carterville we reached Atlanta 100 miles from Dalton on the 15th of Nov. We tore up the railroad from Dalton to Atlanta, and burned all public buildings except churches. Many private homes were destroyed by men without orders. The city of Atlanta was almost entirely destroyed. Gen. Sherman tried to save private houses, but the same men who were employed to tear down a house to stop the fire, would set fire to the next house and hence there was a general conflagration the night was the wildest I ever saw. Soldiers and citizens, women children and negroes were rushing hither and thither among the burning buildings and none seemed to notice others. I got upon the portico of an elegant mansion which fronted a long street and watched the scene for hours. I could write a volume of what I saw, but will not trepas too much on your patience. I secured a few trinkets from the general destruction, and when the fire reached the mansion, I returned to camp disgusted with warfare. The next day we began the march to Savannah, which will be known as one of the greatest achievements of modern times. The moving of an army of near 100,000 men through an enemies country, a distance of 300 miles in 20 days, is something to wonder at. The only town of importance on our line of march was Milledgeville, the capital of Ga. All railroad and government property there was destroyed. As

we proceeded south the weather grew warmer, and it is as pleasant as May now. We are encamped now in a beautiful pine forest. The hanging moss of the southland is pendant from every limb, its light blue mingling with the deep green of the pines causes a softer though sadder appearance, and even soldiers rough as we are, are unusually quiet in such a temple. We were eight days on the advance line, not more than 1/4 of a mile from the rebel lines, and shooting back and forth was incessant. We were relieved by another division yesterday, and expect eight or ten days rest. We have nothing to eat but beef, and not much of that. Expect rations today which have been promised every day for the last ten days. I do not know what the prospect of taking Savannah is. Sherman seems to be working now to perfect communications and secure rations, while he holds the rebels in. We have them enclosed so that they must eventually yield. My term of service expires on the 13th of August 1865. I hope the war will end before that time, but do not expect it. If you want my real opinion in that respect I will give it. I do not think the rebels will ever be conquered by us. They may quarrel among themselves, and join us out of spite to one another, but as long as they choose to keep united and do the best they can, they can never be conquered. Don't show this to any copperhead for it may be thought of some importance, as coming from a seven years soldier. I do not see what we can do better than to keep fighting and hope for the best. Butler's plan of an amnesty is good and may lead to some results. We can exterminate them, and repeople their country in time, and

it is better to do this than to acknowledge our government a failure.

Give my love to a few and my respects to all.

Yours lovingly

J.B. Roys

IMLS CAP UPDATE



INSTITUTE of MUSEUM
and LIBRARY SERVICES

Both reviewers have now been on site. Lori van Handel's collection report has been received and the Society is at work responding to a number of her suggestions. Two major areas of concern, which will be addressed in the next year, are our collections record management techniques and environmental conditions.

The Society will soon be purchasing Past Perfect, a computer software program, which is a standard in the museum community. This program will allow SHS to update its records and in turn to make the collections more accessible to the public. If you enjoy data entry and/or working with historic collections, this is a project for you! SHS will also purchase data loggers to monitor the collections areas over the next year.

Andrea Gilmore conducted her buildings evaluation on August 16 and 17. We are awaiting her report. She too cited the significant work done by the Society members over the years! Call the office to find out more about the reports, or to get involved in their implementation.



Outreach Committee seeks Ideas & Volunteers

The Outreach Committee works with the President, Vice-President and Society Director to provide tours, exhibits, special events, monthly meeting, school programs, field trips and workshops. In addition, the Outreach Committee wants to compile a database of members who wish to volunteer their time and talents.

There's a lot for this committee to do. Won't you help? We'd love to hear your ideas on topics for the monthly meetings, workshops, special events etc. What would you like to see your Sheffield Historical Society offering?

The committee is currently forming subcommittees to address each of its areas of responsibility. If you are interested in helping to make any of these areas come to life, please notify Rene Wood (229-2875) or any committee member. Outreach Committee members are: Kathy Ness, Marilyn Wightman, Marion Whitman, Judith Timm and Rene Wood, chair.

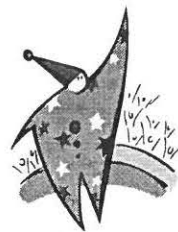
P. S. Special thanks to Inez Flinn who once again will be in charge of hospitality for the monthly meetings.

SHEFFIELD IN CELEBRATION

September 8th to 16th, 2001

A myriad of events all weeklong including, but not limited to:

- ♦ *“Anything and Everything About Sheffield and Ashley Falls” art show*
- ♦ *Children’s Programming*
- ♦ *Nature hikes and activities*
- ♦ *Tours of local landscapes and cultural sites*
- ♦ *Sheffield & Ashley Falls Cottage Industry Showcase*
- ♦ *5th Annual Heavenly Quilt Show*
- ♦ *Celebration on the Sheffield Green—September 8, 4-8 pm*
- ♦ *Ashley Falls Fair on the Green—September 15, 10 am-4 pm*



Call the Sheffield Historical Society at (413) 229-2694 for a full list of events and times.

The Sheffield Historical Society

thanks you for your membership contribution which helps with developing our educational programs, preserving and displaying the buildings and grounds, and maintaining our collection of historic objects and documents.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

INDIVIDUAL	\$10-\$19
FAMILY/DUAL	\$20-\$34
INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTING	\$35-\$49
FAMILY/DUAL SUPPORTING	\$50-\$99
INDIVIDUAL LIFE	\$100 or more
ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION	

FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS _____

Name (s) _____

Mailing Address _____

Town/City _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Alternate Address _____

Town/City _____ Zip _____

Dates this address is valid _____

Membership entitles one to all the privileges of the Society, including admission to the Dan Raymond House.

Checks are payable to the Sheffield Historical Society. Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

The Sheffield Historical Society greatly appreciates the support of its members.

The following is a list of those who supported SHS through membership dues in 2000-2001, including life members.

If your name is missing from the list, it may be that your membership has lapsed. Please fill out the membership form provided and mail it in with your contribution.

To see the ending date of your current membership, check the date in the () on your mailing label.

Thank YOU!

Susan & Larry Agolia	Bernard & Suzanne Eismann	Tom Orlando
Sandra & Dale Alden	Nancy Elliott	Rena Orner
Ginger Alexander	Peter & Patricia Elsbach	Bruce & Barbara Person
Allen B. Altman	Nancy Emery	Dennis D. Picard
Grace Arzt	Inez Flinn	Lillian E. Preiss
Doreen & Walter Atwood	Bruce & Marcia Fowle	Sandra Preston
Hareptia Ball	Warner Friedman	Carl & Sally Proper
Milton & Marion Barnum	Natalie & Maree Funk	David L. Prouty
Ann B. Barrett	Dorothy Garfein	Nancy & Bob Rathbun
Betty D. Batacchi	Joanne M. Garland	George B. Raymond
Teresa J. Bellizzi	Tom and Anita Garrett	& Ada H. Hastings
Paul Benjou	Olive Gaylord	Ann M. Riou
William & Blanche Bennett	Rene Gibson	Walter M. Riou
P.J. Bradley	Frederic Gordon	Mrs. Muriel Rokos
Jean Blackmur	Leonard Graziano	Rose Rosal & Marc Lavietes
Eleanor Blake	Sharon Gregory	Peter & Ellen Rowntree
Ms. Pamela Bloodworth	William Grief	John Ryder
Roy Blount, Jr.	Eleanor Griffiths	Joanne Schmidlin
E. Shears Boardman	Lovina E. Gulotta	Bernie & Shellie Schneider
Grace Wallace Brown	Wray M. Gunn & Cora Portnoff	Charlotte L. Schneider
Patrick & Barbara Burns	Sallee W. Hardy	Gladys S. Schofield
Grace French Campbell	Tiziana Hardy	Charles & Pauline Schumann
Elisabeth Cary	Claire Height	Dennis Sears & Rene Wood
Aidan Cassidy	Gillian & Norman Hettinger	Tjasa Sprague
Neal & Julie Chamberlain	Bruce M. Howden	Louise W. Stevens
Elizabeth Chapin	Joanne Hurlbut	John & Appy Stookey
Fern & Elliot Chapnick	Carol Ingher	Jon & Marianne Swan
Jeanne & Richard Cherneff	Kathie Ness & John James	Ronald & Judith Timm
Neil & Kathleen Chrisman	Elwyn L. Johnson	Peter & Doris Traub
Michael Cleary	Donald Jurney	Kate & Turt Turton
Carol Collins	Kingsley & Sally Kelly	Sabina Ullrich
Abbott C. Combes III	Ursula Kilner	Myra Ummel
Harry E. Conklin	Sheila Kotur	Barbara A. Vacchiano
William Conklin	Mary M. Law	Janny Van Houwelingen
Sarah Cook	Dr. & Mrs. George M. Lazarus	Loet & Edith Velmans
Gary & Janet Cooksan	Olga Leafgreen	Miss Jane F. Warner
J. Nicoll & Mary C. Cooper	Gary LeBeau	Alice Warren
Susan and Stuart Crampton	Robert & Ruth Ledlie	Frances Warren
Howard Crockett	Mrs. Gertrude LeGeyt	Marianne Webb-Witdorchic
Jean & Franklin Curtiss	Morton & Susan Levin	& Stephen Witdorchic
Vincent J. Cuticello	Sarah Light	Stacey & Jeff Weber
Mr. & Mrs. F. James Dallett	Connie Logan	Barbara Roberts Weeks
Elizabeth Daly	Thomas P. Lynch	Ronald & Elsie West
Anthony & Dana Dapolito	Norman & Barbara Margolis	Roberta L. Wheeler
Robert & Ann Dean	Dorothy Marosy	Marion E. Whitman
Barbara De Lee	Barbara Martin	Thomas & Joan Wiehl
Dwight & Nancy Dellert	Wesley G. McCain	John & Marilyn Wightman
Susan & Philip Detjens	& Norene Storrie	Oliver & Evelyn Willcox
William & Dorothy DeVoti	Deborah McCurdy	Martha & Barry Williamson
Thomas & Cynthia Dixon	Catherine McNeil	Elizabeth C. & William H.
Ruthana Donohue	& Mylan Jaixen	Wilson
John & Audrey Downie	Mary Ellen Combes McNeil	Ms. Ali A. Winston
Virginia J. Drury	Thomas C. Mentzinger	Thomas & Susan Young
Charles A. DuCharme	James & Catherine Miller	Donald & Ruth Ziegler
Betty Dunk	John Arthur & Trudy Miller	Mark & Claudia Ziobro
Betty L. Duryea	Mrs. Virginia F. Moskowitz	
Frances A. Eastburn	Patrice Mullin	
Francine & John Eget	Elizabeth O'Connor	
Bernard & Suzanne Eismann	Kathy Orlando	



159 Main Street
PO Box 747
Sheffield, MA 01257

Phone: 413-229-2694
Email: shs@sheffieldhistory.org

Thursdays through Saturdays--11 am to 4 pm,
tours of the Dan Raymond House, fee.

Mark Dewey Research Center open Monday and
Friday afternoons, 1:30 to 4 pm.

WE'RE ON THE WEB
SHEFFIELDHISTORY.ORG

Board of Directors

Dorothy Marosy, *President*

Kathie Ness, *Vice-President*

Catherine Miller, *Treasurer*

Harry Conklin, *Clerk*

Trustees:

Doreen Atwood

Wray Gunn

James Miller

Marilyn Wightman

Rene Wood

Joanne Hurlbut, *Director*

The proposed revisions to the Sheffield Historical Society By-laws were adopted by the Society membership at the Annual Meeting on June 8.

The Standing Committees for 2001-2002 are:

Finance—Catherine Miller Chair, Patrick Burns, Wray Gunn, Wesley McCain, and Peter Rowntree.

Collections—Doreen Atwood Chair, Betty Chapin, Joanne Hurlbut ex-officio, Connie Logan, and Carl Proper.

Mark Dewey Research Center—Betty Chapin Chair, Doreen Atwood, Eleanor Griffiths, James Miller, David Prouty, and Pauline Schumann.

Outreach—Rene Wood Chair, Kathie Ness, Judith Timm, Marion Whitman, and Marilyn Wightman. A number of sub-committees will assist in various areas, especially for special events.

Buildings and Grounds—Jim Miller Chair, Robert Ledlie, and Ann Riou.

Save these dates:

**September 8th for the
Ice Cream Social**

**October 13th for the
Cemetery Stroll**

**October 21st for the
Music of the Civil War**



Sheffield Historical Society

November 2001 Newsletter

Holiday Happenings at the Sheffield Historical Society



The Sheffield Historical Society will be hosting many holiday events this December.

The season kicks off with the **3rd Annual Festival of Trees on Saturday, December 1** at Old Parish Church on the village green.

The event, which runs from **10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**, features a silent auction of custom decorated holiday trees and holiday raffles (drawings at three p.m.). The trees make great presents and hostess gifts! Lunch available, \$5.00. Last year over 40 one-of-a-kind trees were purchased by delighted shoppers. Proceeds will go toward the Stone Store restoration. No admission charge – so come and do some holiday shopping and enjoy a hearty homemade lunch. The event also includes:

Ø **Holiday Ties: a Bow Making Workshop** taught by Dorothy Marosy. Never been able to make that holiday bow look right? This workshop's for you! Bows of

all shapes, materials and sizes will be demonstrated. Once you've gotten the basics, you'll make three beautiful bows to take home – two of wired ribbon suitable for holiday wreaths or swags and a third bow suitable for a package. All materials included, 1 p.m. Fee: \$20. Space limited, registration required. Call: 229-2694.

Ø **Customize your Holiday Wreath: a Demonstration** by Judy Schnurr. Judy will show you how to take the basic wreath being sold by the Sheffield Historical Society and add special touches to make it uniquely yours. Judy's ideas are always creative and do-able with stunning results. This demonstration is free.

Ø **Holiday Tapestry raffle** tickets will be sold for the custom made, one of a kind tapestry. This beautiful, hand made 49" x 62", all cotton tapestry features 9-patch squares in holiday fabrics alternating with solid red squares decorated with gold poinsettias.



The **Holiday Stroll** will be held on **Saturday, December 15** from 2 to 4 p.m.

The program begins at the Dan Raymond House on Main Street in Sheffield, where there will be a members' holiday exhibition. After viewing this 1774 home, participants will visit four other historic houses decorated for the season. Christ Church Episcopal will serve as the gathering place at the end of the journey, where holiday music and refreshments will be available.

The drawing for the Regi Klein painting of Sheffield "The Town Common" will take place at 4 p.m. Proceeds from this drawing go to benefit the Stone Store. Members free, non-members \$8.

Holiday Wreaths

In addition, this year the **Society will be selling three different models of wreaths** for your holiday decorating. All wreaths feature fresh evergreens, are custom decorated and ready to hang on your door, mantel, or wall. With Judy Schnurr as our wreath consultant,

these wreaths will be fabulous! Wreath models will be available in early November for your viewing (in the Stone Store windows). Please consider these wreaths for your home, office or gift giving needs. Prepaid orders may be placed by calling the Society at 229-2694 or Rene Wood at

229-2875. Wreaths will be available for pickup in early to mid December to ensure their freshness. Proceeds benefit the Stone Store restoration.

See page 7 for an order form.



Mark Dewey Research Center Archives

Sheffield was the home from 1899 to about 1922 to a set of identical twins whose individual identity was a puzzle to everyone in town except for their immediate family. Jesse R. and George M. Davis were the sons of Nathaniel E. and Alice A. Davis and brothers of Alice and Mabel. The family farmed on Boardman Street. News of the Davis brothers' ability to mystify their associates about their identity spread far and wide through national newspapers and, as a result, they received a letter from twin sisters living in the Chicago area who wanted to make their acquaintance.

According to a series of articles in the *Berkshire Courier*, the young men took great pleasure in their ability to puzzle and for that reason wore identical clothing. When one brother bought some clothes for himself, he always purchased the same thing for his brother. They shaved the same time of day, cut their hair the same way and did nothing differently that could be used to set them apart. The two boys weighed about the same, used the same words in conversation, had similar voices and their smiles were so alike that it was almost impossible to see a difference in them.

In school they were always in the same class and did well in their studies. But they never had a problem in deceiving the teachers as to who was George and who was Jesse. If one knew his lesson better than the other they changed seats after mingling during recess or around the teacher's desk and the one who had the better knowledge would get in a position where he

would be next to recite. Grading them was often guess work on the part of the teacher but the boys never claimed to take tests for each other.

In sports they worked their disguise on the baseball and football fields. They played both games but it was in baseball that they were able to profit from their appearance. It was possible for one brother to bat in place of the other. They told of games where their names were far enough apart on the batting list so that one would not have to come to bat while the other was on base. Thus, if they wished, either could do all the batting. When only one position was filled by a Davis twin, provided the other was on the field, (and they nearly always were together) the better fielder did all the fielding and the better batter did all the batting.

The family belonged to the Friendly Union and they also deceived people in performances held there on the stage. If one had a difficult part in a play, the other would learn a portion of it and come out during some acts, nobody being the wiser.

In social situations when one of the brothers received an introduction and the other was not present, the introduction worked for both. One simply told the other about the introduction and when the previously absent brother finally met the person, he took up as if already introduced.

During one winter both even kept the company of the same lady. Jesse would call one night, and fill George, who might very well make the next visit, in on the proceedings.

Apparently the young lady was not able to tell the difference.

Even visitors to their home were as puzzled as anybody else. Jennie P. Lockwood boarded at the Davis home all one winter and was unable to tell them apart. She hoped to distinguish them by where they sat at table but, of course, they changed seats.

Jesse was eventually hired as a substitute mail carrier. As you have already guessed, nobody really knew who was carrying the mail.

About 1922 they left Sheffield. Their destination is not known, but if I had to find them, I would start looking in the Chicago area.

Sheffield Fatal Disease is Anthrax

"Dr. Austin Peters, chief of the cattle bureau, was in Sheffield recently with Dr. F. D. Landon of Great Barrington investigating the cause of death of several cattle. The latest case was about two weeks ago, when a cow belonging to Willis Clark died suddenly. Several others had died earlier in the summer. Dr. Peters is confident that the disease is anthrax, which generally proves fatal with cattle. He had previously made an examination of blood sent to him by Dr. Landon and from that secured positive proof. ... Dr. Peters will soon decide what is the best method to prevent any further spreading of the fatal malady, for it means a great loss to the farmers in this section." *Berkshire Courier*, 21 October 1909.

The Old Stone Store Rescue



Restoration work began in earnest in early May on the Old Stone Store and, as is the case with old buildings, many problems were not evident until it was opened up for a closer look. The advanced deterioration we found has added to the cost of its rescue and extended the length of time necessary to complete the project.

The entire wooden interior has been gutted and rebuilt, effectively creating a new wooden building within the existing stone work. It includes floor joists, partitions, stairs, cedar roof and new, rot resistant store front, doors, and windows. The rough wiring and plumbing have been completed and work on the climate control is well under way. As a result, the first floor is nearly ready for insulation. In the space behind the Store where the wooden addition once stood, the septic system and underground fuel tanks are in place. In the spring that area will be landscaped with the help of a grant from the Lenox Gar-

den Club. Architect John James has donated his professional expertise for the project and Reiner White, the contractor, has worked to ensure a restoration appropriate to the period.

The Society secured a loan in the amount of \$180,000 from the MassDevelopment Corporation and nearly that entire amount has been expended. Work on the project will cease until the loan is paid off and additional money is raised.

The Old Stone Store Restoration Committee, a group of Society members and citizens from the community has been working on fundraising since July. The response from individuals and groups has been gratifying in that slightly over \$100,000 has been raised. However, there is some distance to go to meet the \$180,000 obligation and the estimated balance of \$50,000 beyond that figure that is estimated to bring the project to its final conclusion. With persistence the challenge will be met so that one day the community will be able to enjoy the use of the Old Stone Store for its intended use as a museum of town history, exhibit space

and information center. Pledges or other gifts are tax deductible to the fullest extent under the law and the Society is a 501(c)(3) corporation. If you would like to support this project or wish additional information, please contact Catherine B. Miller at (413) 229-8668.



Contributors to the Old Stone Store July 1 – October 31

\$5,000+

Anonymous
Anonymous
Berkshire Bank
Lois Bradford & Joan Brooks
Paul & Carol Collins
Jean Curtiss
James & Catherine Miller

\$1,500 – 4,999

Philip & Susan Detjens
Virginia Drury
Lenox Garden Club
Carl Schumann

\$100 – 1,499

Doreen Atwood
Grace Arzt
Neil & Kathleen Chrisman
Mark Consolini
Friends of CBM
Dorothy Marosy
Henry & Dawn Massini
Katherine Ness
Sheffield Tourism
Rene Wood

Another successful stroll through the cemetery

The decision to move the cemetery stroll forward in date and time proved a pleasant one. Warm temperatures and sufficient light for strolling made this year's walk in Ashley Falls the best attended stroll to date. Over 80 people joined us in Sackett Cemetery. This event boasted our largest cast as well.

Ricky Bernstein is pictured here portraying Roscoe Taft.

Thanks to all those who assisted with this event and all those who came out to join in the walk.

Call the office if you would like to be a spirit in next year's cemetery stroll at 229-2694.



Hats off to the Civil War Concert Performers



Sunday, October 21st witnessed one of the best musical performances to have ever taken place in Sheffield. Over 160 people turned out to hear the words and songs of Sheffield residents from the Civil

War. A host of local talent, both professional and amateur, provided the community an entertaining and in many ways very moving experience. For those of you who missed the event, the local access television channel CTSB-11 filmed the concert. The Society will have tapes of the event which can be

viewed or purchased. Let the Society know if you are interested in purchasing a copy of this program at 229-2694. The program will also run on CTSB. Check the station's listings for time and date. Hopefully the program will air on Veterans Day.

Thanks go out to every one involved in the concert from ticket sales and ushers, to those who prepared the reception, and to all who purchased tickets, which helped support the restoration of the Stone Store.

Special thanks go out to all the

performers and to James and Catherine Miller for all their efforts in making this concert such a success.

A very special thanks goes out to John-Arthur Miller, who originated the idea for the concert and who carried the process through. His many hours of research, rehearsing, and organization were evident in all aspects of the performance.

A job well done indeed!

Please note correction from the Fall Newsletter: donations in Root's memory made to the Old Parish Church for the Clock were by the G.A.R. and the W.R.C.

Collaborative Programming

The Society will again be working with the Trustees of Reservations for programming in 2002.

The joint 18th-Century Day is tentatively set for July 6th. A series of joint tours with a focus on Sheffield's natural and cultural history is being developed for the summer months. Watch for details in the March newsletter.

In conjunction with the Bushnell-Sage Library, the Society will offer its first school vacation workshop, "History through Quilting," on Wednesday, February 20, 2002 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is designed for 8 to 12 year olds.

The program will include readings, viewing historical materials,

and the completion of an individual quilt square. Participants are asked to bring their own bag lunch to this textile workshop.

Fee—\$8 members, \$10 non-members.

Registration is required. Please register at 229-2694.

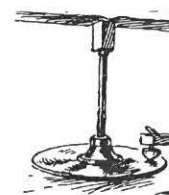
Calendar of Events 2002

Friday—January 11 *What's It with Milton Barnum & Chris Coenen, 7:30 p.m., Dewey Memorial Hall*

One of the Society's favorite annual

events is back again. Get out your thinking caps in order to identify objects that mystify the mind, and bring along that gizmo or gadget to

stump the experts.



Monday—January 21—Sheffield's Heroes and Helpers, 1 to 3 p.m. at the Bushnell-Sage Library

A jointly sponsored event focusing on

firefighters and other community members who are always ready to assist in times of need. There will be readings for children and lec-

tures and exhibits for adults. The event is free and open to the public.

Friday—February 8—The Massachusetts Quilt Documentation Project with Society and Quilt Guild members, 7:30 p.m.—Dewey Memorial Hall

An ongoing project to document quilts made in Massachusetts prior to 1950. Experts from this project visited Sheffield this past year. The Berkshire Quilt Guild sponsored the team's visit to our

area and paid for quilts in South County museums to be documented. Quilts from the Mission House, Bidwell House, Sheffield Historical Society, and private owners were involved. The team photographed, evaluated, and produced a written report on each quilt. Five Society quilts were included in this

project. Amongst the privately owned quilts were some from an early farmhouse in Ashley Falls.

SHS members will explain the procedures used and show the documented quilts. Some surprising information will be revealed!

Friday—March 8—"The Taking of East Sheffield" with John Sisson, 7:30 p.m., Dewey Memorial Hall

A presentation of this dramatic chapter in Sheffield's 1870's history where politics, mills, railroads, and territory

put in play a series of events that resulted in Sheffield losing a large portion of its eastern territory.

John Sisson is the President of the New Marlboro Historical Society, a member of the Historical Commis-

sion, and the Project Manager of the New Marlboro Cemetery Restoration Project. He is the great grandson of a pivotal figure in this drama.

Friday—April 12—To be announced

Friday—May 10—"Under the Quabbin: The Lost Towns" with Ed and Libby Klekowski—7:30 p.m., Dewey Memorial Hall

This huge reservoir in Central Massachusetts covered over small towns and settlements during the construction and flooding of the Quabbin Reservoir. Ed

and Libby Klekowski from the University of Massachusetts researched and produced a WGBY program on the project.

The Klekowskis with the assistance of University of Massachusetts students found fascinating stories during their botany research. These discoveries led to the creation of a

television program for the Springfield PBS channel. The program is to be aired during the December fund drive. Check TV listings to get an overview. We'll get the real inside "scoop" when this personable couple appear at our May meetings.

Friday—June 14—Annual Meeting, 7:30 , p.m., Dewey Memorial Hall

In addition to those long awaited annual reports, the Society will be celebrating its 30th year! Join in

the festivities. There will be many surprises!



A community of museums in the United States has joined together to launch **Shopformuseums.com**. This is a fundraising secure portal site, designed to benefit museums by generating revenue through on-line consumer sales. The Sheffield Historical Society is one of the organizations able to benefit

from this collaboration.

The process is simple: Go to Shopformuseums.com and select the Sheffield Historical Society from the database. You select a merchant and make an order. There are over 125 merchants to select from including upscale toys, gifts, apparel, and computer

providers. Each merchant will donate a portion of your purchase to the Sheffield Historical Society.

This is an easy way to get the quality products you want and to financially benefit the Sheffield Historical Society at the same time.

Check out their website or call the office for more details

New Publication

James Miller, Archivist at the Mark Dewey Research Center, has spent innumerable hours delving into the history of Sheffield. His labors have born fruit and will be shared with the community in the Spring of 2002 by way of a new publication on Sheffield in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The Historical Society is taking advanced orders for this work.

The focus is on material culture and the publication will shed new light on the daily life of the founding generations of Sheffield residents.

Watch for further details on the book in the Spring newsletter.

To reserve your copy, call the office at 229-2694.

SHS Updated Web Site

Visit www.sheffieldhistory.org and see our new and expanded web site. All information has been updated and new pages added on Special Events, Directions, Volunteering, and Links to other sites. A Collections page has also been added for future display of Society holdings.

Special thanks to Betty Chapin,
Joanne Hurlbut, Dorothy Marsoy,

Catherine Miller, James Miller and Rene Wood, the website committee that made it happen, Aidan Cassidy for his drawings, Gregg Siter, the designer of the original website, who graciously volunteered the many hours required to make all the changes and give our site its new appearance and Marianne Swan, who will be doing future updates.

New Exhibit

The holiday exhibition for the Dan Raymond House will be composed of members collections, with a special concentration on Santa Claus and festive textiles. Several members are contributing items from their personal collections which you may never have seen before! *The exhibit will be open to the public from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays, November 30, December 7 and 14; and Saturdays, December 1 from 12 to 3 p.m. and on the 15th for the Holiday Stroll from 2 to 4 p.m.*

★ ★ *Wish List*

★ If you have any of the following ob-
★ jects in good condition, consider
★ donating the item to SHS. Mone-
★ tary contributions to be used in pur-
★ chasing the items are also welcome.

- ★ *A slide projector and laser pointer;*
- ★ *cotton sheets; screw gun, glue &*
- ★ *staple guns, WWI & WWII info, old*
- ★ *scrapbooks*



Sheffield Historical Society Holiday Wreath Order Form



Wreath #1: \$ 27.50. 12" wreath, Red & Gold or Burgundy & Gold bow and golden decorations. Bow Preference: Red & Gold _____ Burgundy & Gold _____

Wreath #2: \$37.50 14" wreath, Burgundy/Gold Multi-colored bow, large tear shaped ornament and additional golden decorations.

Ornament Color Preference: _____ Gold _____ Red _____ White/Silver _____

Wreath #3: \$60.00 22" wreath, re-usable 13" Gold Reindeer Ornament and diaphanous ribbon of golden stars.

All wreaths will be made of balsam/evergreens. SHS reserves the flexibility to substitute another bow of comparable quality. Quantities are limited – please order early.

To order: please complete the form below and send it, along with your check made payable to Sheffield Historical Society, PO Box 747, Sheffield, MA 01257

Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Wreath # _____ Quantity _____ Single Price: \$ _____ Total Amount: \$ _____
Preference Information, if any: _____

Wreath # _____ Quantity _____ Single Price: \$ _____ Total Amount: \$ _____
Preference Information, if any: _____

Wreath # _____ Quantity _____ Single Price: \$ _____ Total Amount: \$ _____
Preference Information, if any: _____

Grand Total and Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Wreaths may be picked up at Sheffield Historical Society, 159 Main Street, Sheffield on the following dates or by special arrangement. We will phone or email you to confirm your pickup date. If special arrangements are needed, please call Rene Wood, 229-2875.

Wreath Pick Up Preference: Please note your 1st and 2nd choices.

Sunday, Dec. 2nd, Noon – 2PM _____

Tues, Dec. 4th, Noon – 2PM _____

Saturday, Dec. 8th, 10AM – 4PM _____

Sunday, Dec. 9th, Noon – 2PM _____

Thank you for your support. Proceeds go to the Stone Store Restoration fund.





159 Main Street
PO Box 747
Sheffield, MA 01257

Phone: 413-229-2694
Email: shs@sheffieldhistory.org

Tours of the 1774 Dan Raymond House are by appointment during the winter months, fee.

Mark Dewey Research Center open Monday and Friday afternoons, 1:30 to 4 pm.

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Dorothy Marosy, *President*
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Trustees:
Doreen Atwood
Wray Gunn
James Miller
Marilyn Wightman
Rene Wood

Joanne Hurlbut, *Director*

Society Happenings

The month of October saw a number of school groups participating in SHS programming, including two groups for the 5th grade cemetery program and the first home-school class. The One-Room School program of the 18th-Century met the 21st-Century in the Education Center and proved that learning truly is multi-generational!

The Sheffield Historical Society is the recipient of a \$200 grant from the Technical Assistance Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Inc. The funds assisted in the purchase of a new computer software program, Past Perfect, for the Society's collection. If data entry is your delight, please call

the Office and become involved in collections record-keeping. It makes for a great winter project.

On October 7, the Society sent intrepid souls into the inclement weather to the Lee Visitors Center to introduce travelers to the Society and received \$500 for this venture from the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism via the Berkshire Visitors Bureau.

Save these dates:

December 1st for the Festival of Trees

December 15th for the Holiday Stroll and drawing of the Regi Klein painting

February 20th for History through Quilting, a workshop for youth



Sheffield Historical Society

June 2002 Newsletter

Summer Fun!

Don't forget the Summer Garden Party on Saturday, June 29th! Call the office for information and reservations.

The Society invites you to join us as we step into some of the finest homes in Sheffield. **A Summer "Historic Sites and Structures"**



Tour is planned for Saturday, August 17th, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Enjoy a special visit to five Sheffield home sites. In addition, the Society's seven historic structures will be open for viewing.

The day is yours for only \$20 per person. Tickets can be purchased

through the mail and at the Society's headquarters. It is recommended that tickets be purchased in advance. For more information call 229-2694.

Eighteenth Century Day: A Family Celebration Saturday, July 6 From 12 to 5 p.m.

Once again the Society is joining with the Colonel Ashley House, operated by the Trustees of Reservations, to celebrate the stories of our founding families.

Spend an afternoon getting to know what life was like for those who walked down the streets of Sheffield and Ashley Falls in the 18th century. And walk they did, since there was only one horse for every six people in the area! Sheffield's first private carriage does not appear in the books until 1800! Today, travel time between the two sites is less than ten minutes

via the horseless carriage. At the Dan Raymond House, there will be a special focus on clothing styles of the period. Dennis Picard will be on hand to demonstrate techniques of sewing and textile production. Other demonstrations include spinning and dyeing.

Both sites will offer house tours, demonstrations, and hands-on activities for the family. Admission: Adults 1/2 usual price, children and members free.

Summer is all about exploration and seeing new sites. So join us right here at home for some new adventures!



Special Joint Summer Tours

Saturdays—July 20 and August 10

Revolutionary Period Tours

Co-sponsored by SHS and the Trustees of Reservations. Begins at 1:30 p.m. at the Dan Raymond House.

Get a close-up view of the Revolutionary Era through this afternoon

excursion: First a presentation on the social and material culture of Sheffield/Ashley Falls during the Revolution will be given by SHS staff. A tour of the Dan Raymond House follows. Then travel to the Col. Ashley House where Don Reid will describe the natural history of the

area during the Revolutionary Period and contrast it with today. His talk will be followed by a tour of the Ashley House.

Size is limited to 20; members free, non-members \$5. Reservations suggested; call 229-2694.

Scholar's Corner

This year's recipient of the Sheffield Historical Society \$1,500 Scholarship is Rebecca Garcia. She will pursue a B.S. in Architecture at Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston.

Grant Awards

The Sheffield Historical Society educational troupe will once again be off to the Lee Tourism Booth to dazzle the audience. This year members will spend July 27 and 28 at the booth, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., demonstrating and sharing information about the Society. The Society will receive a total of \$1,000 for the two days thanks to the **Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism and the Berkshire Visitors Bureau**. If you are traveling that day, stop in and say hello.

* * *

Oral History Project wins Support from the Local Cultural Council (supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council).

Over the past several months the Society has worked in conjunction with a number of local organizations and individuals to preserve the history of the area through the recollections of its inhabitants. The Cultural Council has supported the Society's purchase of equipment (\$325), which will be used to conduct the interviews. Funding was also provided to the Senior Center in order to hire an oral history consultant to guide in creating interview forms and in training interviewers. Watch for future updates on the process!



Annual Reports

Collections Committee Annual Report 2001-2002

Committee members: Betty Chapin, Connie Logan, Carl Proper, and Doreen Atwood

The Collections Committee, along with SHS President Dorothy Marosy and SHS Director Joanne Hurlbut, has met quarterly over the past year.

It has been determined that the present collections policy is in need of review and updating. Currently policies of similar-size institutions are being studied, and a new "Collections Management Policy" will replace the policy now in place. Along with a new policy will be the implementation of the software program "Past Perfect," which will greatly improve the collection records. Many items have been donated in the past without documentation or have lost their identification over the years. A thorough inventory of the collection is needed.

It has been decided that the Col-

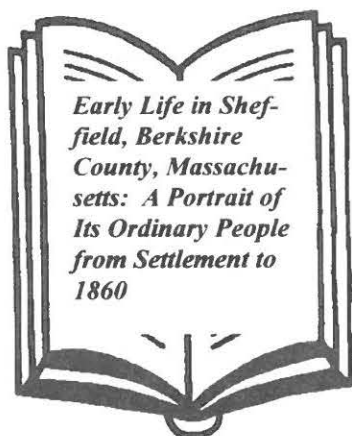
lections Manager should be the Society director. The director is in charge of receiving, inventorying, and daily care of the collection. The director is also responsible for items from the collection used in displays.

A number of textile items have been received and added to the collection over the past year. Included are samplers and coverlets with Sheffield history. Consequently new storage materials have been purchased for textiles and new equipment has been purchased to monitor the atmosphere in the Dan Raymond House. The society received a Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) award and it is hoped that additional grant money will also be awarded to help with the purchase of a HEPA vacuum and other preservation equipment. (See director's report for more details on grants and awards). Long-range preservation is now being studied in order to properly care for the collection and in order to provide needed information for future grant applications.

Plans are being made for a collection appraisal, and the "fine arts" portion of the society's insurance policy will be reviewed as well. In addition, emergency plans for the Society, including fire protection, will be established. Many policies are being studied and updated in keeping with the growth of the collection and its care for the future.

Doreen Atwood, Chair

Place Your Book Order Now



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Early Life in Sheffield, Berkshire County, Massachusetts: A Portrait of Its Ordinary People from Settlement to 1860, by James Miller.

_____ copy (ies) @ \$27.50 _____

Mailing and handling, \$5 first book, \$2 each additional. _____

Total _____

Send order and payment to Sheffield Historical Society,
P.O. Box 747, Sheffield, MA 01257-0747

Treasurer's Report

Over the past couple of years, the Society has computerized its financial record keeping. At this point in time, it is most logical to produce a report once the fiscal year has ended and all figures have been reconciled from July of 2001 through June of 2002. Therefore, the Treasurer, Catherine B. Miller, respectfully requests that the final year-end report be submitted to the Society through the September newsletter.

Director's Report

It is hard to believe, but I have now been at the Society for three years! We are a very active organization and the time has quickly flown by. Our most recent grant reviewers have marveled over the level of activity we engage in, and I will proudly ad-

mit, they are envious of the commitment of our volunteers and members. I send my personal thanks to all who have made my time here so productive and pleasant.

Together during this past year, we have provided educational programs to students from Sheffield to Lenox. In fact, it has been our busiest year to date and we look forward to even more classes.

The level of collaborative programming was on the rise as we worked with the Bushnell-Sage Library, the Cultural Alliance, the Tri-Corners History Council, the Trustees of Reservations, and the numerous groups involved in the oral history project and Sheffield in Celebration. Programming such as the 18th Century Day exhibited our collection, including the newly restored smokehouse, to eager and very appreciative audiences.

In addition to monthly meetings, we have held our first school vacation workshop and events such as the members first preview for the Sheffield Fashions exhibition. Press and televised coverage has been strong.

Our grant track record continues to be a positive one. The most extensive collections project completed over the last year was through the Institute of Museum and Library Services Conservation Assessment Program. The Society has and will continue to benefit on numerous levels from this grant.

There is too little space to record all of the accomplishments of the past year, including the Stone Store Restoration. Just ask anyone, it was a busy year!

Joanne Hurlbut

2002 Annual Report from the Outreach Committee

Members: Rene Wood, Chair, Kathie Ness, Judith Timm, Marion Whitman, Marilyn Wightman.

Ex-Officio Members: Joanne Hurlbut, Dorothy Marosy. Advisor to Committee: Doreen Atwood.

The Outreach Committee had a busy and exciting year working with the Society President, Vice-President and Director to provide tours, exhibits, special events, monthly meetings, school programs, field trips, and workshops.

The monthly programs featured a wide range of topics, which attracted increasing numbers of Society members and the community. Fall 2002 and 2003 programs are set and promise an exciting mix of history and culture. The format of a Friday program followed by a Saturday field trip was well received

and will be repeated again. Society members were once again generous in providing refreshments for enjoyment after the programs. Special thanks to Inez Flinn and Norma Moulton for all their work as hospitality hostesses.

Special events this past year included a Saturday Holiday Stroll in the heart of Sheffield, with a lovely reception at Christ Church and a successful 3rd Annual Festival of Trees, despite the summer-like weather with which it had to compete. The 4th Annual Festival of Trees is scheduled for Saturday, November 30th. Rene Wood and James Miller will again chair the event and encourage members to begin thinking about designing a special tree or two for the event.

Members enjoyed a field trip to

the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in May. An October trip to Mills Mansion is planned. Outreach Committee members also assisted with other Society programs and events as requested.

Please join the Outreach Committee if you'd like to work on these exciting parts of the Society's mission. We are also looking for one or two people who would like to volunteer to post Monthly Meeting posters in local stores.

Thank you Outreach Committee members for all your work in making this an exciting year!

Respectfully submitted,
Rene Wood, Chair

The **Mark Dewey Research Center** has been kept busy this year with visitors, researchers, E-Mails, phone calls, and letter inquiries for a total of 279 requests.

There have been requests for the history of early houses, church history and photos, family records, a list of our early antique dealers, information on the Ten Eyck murders, and Shay's rebellion. We also had two professors from the University of Oklahoma researching "The Society of Horse Thieves" and a professor from SUNY-Buffalo researching early agriculture of the area.

We worked with the library and arranged a display of our Fire and Police Departments for the program of Sheffield's Heroes.

In April we went to Mt. Everett and spoke to the large sixth-grade class on "How to research your ancestors." There were many questions from this young group.

We have purchased some reference books and have been given some old scrapbooks, letters, pictures, family histories, and books.

Our goal for next year is to com-

pile a comprehensive list of our holdings at the Center.

The Center is open Monday and Friday from 1:30 to 4:00 and by appointment.

Respectfully submitted
*Betty Chapin,
Director of MDRC*

MDRC Committee:
Doreen Atwood
James Miller, Archivist
David Prouty
Pauline Schumann



Report on the Old Stone Store

The past year has seen many changes in the Old Stone Store. The frame addition was removed in June 2001 and work on the original structure began in earnest in July. Once the building was opened, it was apparent that the interior bearing walls, and floor and ceiling joists, were in deplorable condition and structural soundness could be achieved only by total gutting and rebuilding a "building within a building." All that remained before reconstruction began were the four stone walls.

Ten months have passed and the Soci-

ety can now take pride in a renovation that is nearly complete.

The interior, with the exception of carpeting and lighting fixtures on the second floor, is ready for use. Work on the garden on the west side of the building will begin shortly. In mid-July the Society will host a reception at the Old Stone Store for all those individuals who generously supported the efforts.

Financial support for the project has been gratifying, and while there is a distance to travel to meet the full cost of the project, to

date, one hundred and seven donors have contributed \$155,880. This is about \$30,000 less than what is needed to pay off the \$180,000 mortgage. The total cost, exclusive of purchase price, is estimated to be \$275,000 so it will be necessary for the Society to continue to fundraise to meet the mortgage expenses and repay the endowment for money borrowed to make up the difference between the mortgage and the project expenses.

Catherine Miller

Report of the Nominating Committee

The Board of Trustees for 2002 – 2003

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
President*	Dorothy Marosy	2003
Vice-President*	Wray Gunn	2004
Clerk	Harry Conklin	2003
Treasurer	Catherine B. Miller	2004
Trustee	Doreen Atwood	2003
Trustee*	John-Arthur Miller	2005

Trustee	James R. Miller	2003
Trustee *	Marilyn Wightman	2005
Trustee	Rene Wood	2003

* Standing for election at the Annual Meeting, June 2002

Respectfully submitted,
Wray Gunn
Catherine B. Miller
H. Dennis Sears

President's Report

As I reflect on the past year, I am astounded by the Society's myriad activities. The monthly programs and field trips continue to attract people not only from Sheffield, but from the surrounding communities. Some highlights were the Civil War Concert, the Festival of Trees, and the Holiday Stroll.

In collaboration with the Bushnell-Sage Library, the Society presented "Heroes and Helpers" and a book signing by the author of *"Mumbet," The Life and Times of Elizabeth Freeman*. Community outreach included the "Place in

Time" program for first and second grades, a cemetery tour for the fifth grade, and a tour of the Dan Raymond House for eighth-grade students. A workshop for 8- to 12- year-olds on quilts and their history was sponsored by the Bushnell-Sage Library and the Berkshire Quilters Guild. Under the tireless direction of Catherine Miller, the Stone Store renovation has been completed and the building will be open to the public this summer. The first annual Garden Party will take place on June 29, when we will

celebrate the publication of James Miller's new book.

In reviewing the minutes and scrapbooks of the Society's past 30 years, I realize that those who preceded us set a fine example. I salute them and all the dedicated volunteers who work so hard to fulfill the goals of the Society. My sincere thanks to the officers, trustees, and Joanne, who have supported and encouraged me over the past year.

Dorothy Marosy



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Mark Dewey Research Center open Monday and Friday afternoons. 1:30 to 4 p.m.

The Office is open Monday-Friday. 10 to 4.

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Trustees:

Doreen Atwood
Wray Gunn
James Miller
Marilyn Wightman
Rene Wood

Joanne Hurlbut, *Director*

Society Wish List

To continue the Society's 30th year anniversary celebration (1972-2002), an exhibition will open on August 31. If you have memorabilia or memories that you wish to share, please drop by or call the office.

Soon the Old Stone Store doors will be open to the public! This means we need your help to staff the building. The Store will serve as a changing exhibition space, information center, and a shop. If you enjoy spending a couple of hours conversing with friends both old and new, please consider joining the Stone Store staff. The hours are flexible and variable. The goal is to have the building staffed at least two days a week; for ex-

ample: late Friday afternoon and early evening, and Saturday or Sunday afternoons. You can work one day a week or one day a month. Call the Society to join in the fun!

Membership Reminder:

The Society's membership is self-policing; reminder letters are never sent. Please check the month and year next to your name for information on when your membership expires, or call the office if you have any questions. Thank you.

Save these dates:

June 29—Garden Party

**July 6—18th Century Day:
A Family Celebration**

**July 20 & August 10
—Revolutionary Period Tours**

**August 17—Summer House
Tour**



Sheffield Historical Society

March 2003 Newsletter

Exhibitions at the Old Stone Store!

Celebrate Women's History Month by contemplating the handiwork of local artists on display in the Sheffield Historical Society's Old Stone Store.

The exhibition

Images From the Eye of the Needle and the Tip of the Hook encompasses three forms of textile art: hooked rugs, samplers, and needlepoint.



Members will recognize the names of our special female artists who are all longtime Society members. Dorothy Marosy's hooked rugs have been pictured in both books and magazines. Samplers from the private collection



of Muriel Rokos, many dating from the 1920s,

will be displayed alongside samplers that this expert quilter has herself created over the years. Susan Young's needlepoint has received awards on the international level. Young is creating needlepoint kits of the Stone Store and other Sheffield buildings; they will be on sale in the Stone Store.

The public is invited to the **opening reception to be held on Saturday, March 15, from 2 to 4 p.m.** The exhibition will remain on view through April 26. The Sheffield Historical Society's Old Stone Store, located on

Main Street (Route 7) in Sheffield, is open **Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

A full slate of exhibits has been lined up for this year. Following the textile exhibition will be one on ephemera (paper materials designed for short-term use and associated with a specific person, object, topic, or event). Watch the press for full details.

Our summer exhibit will focus on tourism. **The Society is the recipient of the Scholars in Residence project** in the amount of \$2,500, a grant co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities and the Bay State Historical League. The funds provide a stipend for local historian and author Bernard Drew to work within the Society's archives to research a topic chosen by the Society. The project is *Spend a Summer in Sheffield & Environs: The Tourism Trade in the Early Railroad Era*. The grant funds will also allow the Society to create a publication based upon Drew's findings.

The exhibition will be on view in the Stone Store during July and August. Drew will give a

special talk on his findings at the opening. Look to the June newsletter for further details.

Our thanks to the organizations that participated in the creation of ***The Spirit of Sheffield Then and Now***, an exhibition on display in the Old Stone Store through March 8. The Sheffield Land Trust, the Sheffield Tree Project, and Elm Watch have created an exhibition that is both informative and popular. A number of photographs from the Society's collection are among the many items on view. Members from all four organizations have staffed the Stone Store on weekends, presented a reception, and worked with the media to make this exhibition a successful community project.

Would you like to enjoy these exhibitions firsthand? If so, then you are invited to become a Stone Store Shop volunteer. Individuals are needed to staff the Store to keep the gallery open for the public and to raise funds for the Society by selling items in the shop. To find out more about this opportunity, call the Office at 229-2694.

Have you noticed that the renovated Stone Store is lacking a sign? If you are willing to help underwrite the cost of this critical sign, please call the Office.

RESEARCH NEWS

DAN RAYMOND, A SECOND LOOK

by James R. Miller

Dan Raymond, whose pre-Revolutionary residence is the home of the Sheffield Historical Society, has frequently been described in print as a prosperous country merchant. Like much history that is handed down through secondary sources from writer to writer and, hence, generation to generation, this simple description does not hold up under scrutiny. The story of his wealth, while true, was true only "*for a time*"

Dan married Anne Noble and it is in the Noble genealogy that an enticing clue about his finances is found. The book refers to him as being a wealthy merchant "*for a time*," a phraseology that draws one's attention.

The most famous Dan Raymond tale, however, has nothing to do with his finances. It relates, instead, to the Sheffield Liberty tree of 1776 and how he contrived to have an accomplice cut it down. Significantly, however, the author offers an additional allusion to Dan's financial ruin. His final sentence concludes, "In justification of his punishment [for having the Liberty Tree cut down] and in confirmation of his guilt, . . . the rich [Dan] died at least in the poor house." With this second teaser, Dan's finances definitely call for a second look. In fact, as the record shows, Raymond served time in debtors' prison in Lenox and died a poor man.

Some insightful facts found in the Southern Berkshire Registry

helped to round out the story. In 1799, Theodore Sedgwick, Esq., obtained a Supreme Judicial Court judgment against Raymond for a debt of \$405.05. As a result, Raymond's "Goods, Chattles [sic] or Lands" were ordered seized and the "House & Lot of Land with the buildings thereon, lying on the east side of the Hig[wa]y in Sheffield, & a little S[outh] of the Meeting house" were taken to settle the claim. It was already mortgaged to one Willet Seaman but the court-appointed appraisers found enough additional value to cover the Sedgwick debt as well. The property is today the home of John-Arthur and Trudy Weaver Miller at 104 Main Street, a brick structure that Raymond built at about the same time as the Society's headquarters.

The Sedgwick judgment was not the only one to face Raymond. The following year, 1800, Asahel P. Bennett pressed a similar claim for \$188.07. As a consequence, additional Raymond real estate was seized, leaving him with exceedingly modest holdings.

Raymond's efforts to reorganize his finances and pay his debts took time. During the interim he was committed to the county jail in Lenox, where he was held from October 11, 1799, "until he pay the full sums" to Sedgwick. He was not able to do so until January 13, 1800. On that release date, however, he was recommitted, this time for his debt to Bennett, which was not satisfied until May 5. Raymond, who was wealthy "*for a time*,"

spent nearly seven months in debtors' prison as a result of these two debts.

Dan died in 1809. It was only then that the most telling evidence of his financial situation emerged. He died with neither a will nor an estate at a time when men, even of the "middling sort," had their final affairs settled through probate.

This second look at Dan Raymond, who, "*for a time*," was a prosperous frontier trader, is an expanded interpretation of his life and times. But it also illustrates the perils of blithely using other writers' work without verification and the need for researching original sources in order to have a more complete and balanced picture of the past.



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Holland, Josiah Gilbert, *History of Western Massachusetts. The Counties of Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire.*, Samuel Bowles and Company, Springfield: 1855, p. 584.

Raymond family file, Sheffield Historical Society, Mark Dewey Research Center.

Southern Berkshire Registry, book 36, pp. 332-334 and 362-364.

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

Can you picture in your mind's eye Norman Rockwell's "Four Freedoms"? The images are famous locally and nationally. Whether you have seen them lately or not at all, join the Sheffield Historical Society on Friday, **March 14, at 7:30 p.m.**, and explore these images in a new light. **Stuart Murray** will present *FDR's Ideas and Rockwell's Images*, the story of the development of Rockwell's painting of the Four Freedoms and the U.S. government's response to the paintings—from initial disdain to incorporation into the war effort. This discussion of politics and art is as important in our communities today as it was decades ago.

The Sheffield Historical Society invites the public to take another look at America's most divisive conflict.

Twiggs Myers will present *The Civil War in the East* on Friday,

April 11, at 7:30 p.m.

This spring journey will bring participants through the full years of the war, from 1861 to 1865. The points of exploration will include the major campaigns and battlefields of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia and the Union Army of the Potomac. Military leaders Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant will figure prominently in the presentation. Myers taught history for over 40 years at Berkshire School.

Springtime brings forth a sense of new beginnings, provides us with

the days of sun and warmth that we have been longing for, and makes us all wax poetic. So join us then in that vein for the **May 9th** meeting, *The Apple Blossom Poets*, with **Bernard Drew, 7:30 p.m.** The poets are the locally known Goodale sisters of Mt. Washington. The program will consist of both readings of their poetry and commentary by Drew.

June then ushers in the summer season and the break from monthly meetings, but let us not forget to come together first, on **June 13**, to celebrate the successes of the past year at the Society's **Annual Meeting, 7:30 p.m.**

The programs are free and open to the public and will take place in the Community Rooms of Old Parish Church, Sheffield.

Special thanks go out to all those volunteers who have recently helped with the Society's collaborative programming.

In particular: to those performers who helped with the Songs Sung in Sheffield program on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, especially vocalist and emcee Robert O'Keefe. Participants found the program moving and enjoyable; there were even a number of strong voices from the audience! This was a joint program with the Bushnell-Sage Library.

February's joint program involved the talents of the Berkshire Quilters' Guild along with the staff of the Bushnell-Sage Library and the Society. This year's school vacation workshop, *Hands-On Quilting*, was

even more popular than last year's! The participants, 8 to 12 years of age, remained dedicated to their task throughout the day. As one of the adult supervisors noted, "You could have heard a pin drop on the carpeted floor; it was that quiet!"

And a round of applause to those dedicated collections volunteers who attended SHS's grant-funded National Endowment for the Humanities' workshops in the fall. The Society was fortunate to be able to offer the workshops to our members, local organizations, and community members. Participants benefited from the hands-on formats and the Society benefited from the participants' labor on our collections. We learned how to properly hang items, such as the Bradford portraits (re-hanging those objects was an experience indeed!). We also worked within the textile collection, learning how to properly fold, store, and care for the textiles in order to prevent gradual deterioration.

The experts were most impressed with the collection and with the Society's recent improvements in collections care. But there is much yet to do! Our members are putting into practice the skills they learned. We work in teams, sharing our knowledge while having a good time. New team players are always welcome. This grant also enabled us to buy an appropriate vacuum and attachments. So cleaning is a breeze!





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Marilyn Wightman

Rene Wood

Joanne Hurlbut, *Director*

Albany Remembered Field Trip

On **Thursday, May 8**, a bus trip to the New York State capital is offered to members and friends. The rich history of this 17th-century Dutch settlement will be included in our guided tour. The Hudson River carried the French trappers, Dutch fur traders, and then the English colonists, who renamed the area after the Duke of York and Albany. Now the seat of state government, Albany is a growing culture center of museums, theaters, and historic buildings, as we will see and learn from a professional guide, who will lead us on a 1½-hour walking tour. (This is not a strenuous hike.)

We plan to tour the Capitol building and the Governor's mansion, and to enjoy views from the Corning Tower. There will be time to rest and refresh at the new café in the State Museum, Dutch treat. Our chartered bus will leave at 8:30 a.m. and return at 4:00 p.m.

The cost for transportation, guided tours, and entrance fees is \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. A brochure will be available, and reservations will be accepted after March 14th. For further information, call Marion Whitman at (413) 528-6013.

Save these dates:

**March 15—Textile Exhibition
Opening and Reception**

June 13—Annual Meeting



Sheffield Historical Society

Fall 2003 Newsletter

► Baskets and More Baskets! ◀



Did you know that some of America's most prized baskets are made from black ash? Want to learn more about this multipurpose household object?

Then join us at our season-opening meeting on **Friday, September 12, at 7:30 p.m.** for a program on the **Harvest of Black Ash from Trunk to Basket with JoAnn Kelly Catsos.** This nationally honored basket weaver will tell the history, art, and culture of basket weaving through slide and lecture. The evening's event is free and open to the public and will take place in the **Fellowship Room of Old Parish Church, Sheffield.**



Catsos began teaching rattan reed basketry to children and adults throughout the Northeast in 1986. Currently she is teaching her original black ash basketry designs at basketry conventions and craft schools around the country, and exhibiting her one-of-a-kind pieces. Catsos and her husband, Steve, process the black ash splint, make molds, and do the wood-working involved with her black ash baskets. Formerly an elementary school teacher, she loves teaching basketry and meeting people in the

process. She has written and published 21 basketry patterns to date.

Her work has been published in the 1999 edition of *Splint Woven Basketry* by Robin Taylor Daugherty; in the July/August 1999 issue of *Early American Homes* magazine; in *Directory of Traditional American Crafts*; and in the Fall 1999 and Winter 1999/2000 issues of *Shuttle, Spindle & Dyeplot*. She was honored to have a woven black ash ornament selected for the White House Christmas Tree in 1999. In 2003 she received the Certificate of Excellence, Level I: Technical Skills in Basketmaking, awarded by the Handweavers Guild of America.

Spend an enjoyable day weaving a **Sheffield Berry Basket** made of **black ash splint** that was harvested in the Berkshires. The Sheffield Historical Society is sponsoring a basket workshop on **Saturday, September 13, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with master basketmaker JoAnn Kelly Catsos.** The Sheffield Berry Basket is designed as a functional basket similar to what would have been made in New England 100 years ago. The combination of traditional

black ash splint basketry techniques and modern expertise produces a basket that is both beautiful and useful. The Sheffield Berry Basket is 6½ inches in diameter and 8 inches tall with handle. No experience needed – just bring a desire to learn how to weave with wood.

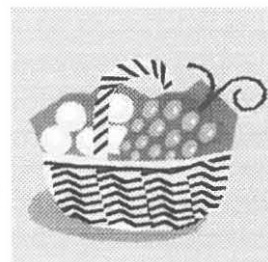
Catsos states: "Making baskets of black ash satisfies some of my most basic inner needs. Working with wood keeps me in touch with nature, while creating the basket satisfies my artistic need to express myself. Weaving high-quality miniature baskets is definitely a challenge. My goal is to maintain the highest level of craftsmanship possible in both my miniature and full-size black ash baskets."

The expert basketry of Catsos has won many awards – including Viewer's Choice at the North Carolina Basketmakers Association, Association of Michigan Basketmakers, and the Indiana Basketmakers Association Annual conventions.

The workshop fee is \$75, which includes all materials.

Pre-registration is required.

Call the office at 229-2694.



Fall Schedule, cont'd



Saturday—October 4—Cemetery Walk with James Miller at 10 a.m. (part of Upper Housatonic National Heritage Area weekend). The Sheffield Historical Society is offering a tour of two of Sheffield's oldest cemeteries, where stones of unusual interest, importance, or distinction will be pointed out and discussed. Our own historian James Miller will conduct the tour. The walk begins at the Society's Dan Raymond House headquarters, 159 Main Street (Route 7), Sheffield. Participation is limited and advance registration is suggested. The tour will last about 1 to 1½ hours. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended. Call (413) 229-2694 to reserve a place. Free and open to the general public.

Friday—October 10—Under the Quabbin: The Lost Town with Ed and Libby Klekowski at 7:30 p.m. The creation of this huge reservoir in Central Massachusetts submerged small towns and settlements. Ed and Libby Klekowski, from the University of Massachusetts, researched the construction and flooding of the Quabbin Reservoir and produced a WGBY program on the project. The Klekowskis, with the assistance of University of Massachusetts students, found fascinating stories during their research. (This program was

postponed from an earlier date.) The evening's event is free and open to the public and will take place in the **Fellowship Room of Old Parish Church, Sheffield.**

Saturday—October 18—The Spirits of Sheffield Cemetery Walk from 4 to 6 p.m. One of the Society's favorite programs! This year the visitations with local inhabitants from Sheffield's past will take place at the Barnard Cemetery, located on Route 7. Men and women from the 18th and 19th centuries will recount the struggles they encountered in war and peace. Each has a unique story to tell. If you are interested in playing a leading role in this year's event or if you wish to help with the logistics of the program, please call the office at 229-2694. Refreshments. Free to members, \$4 general public.



Wednesday—October 22—Fall trip to a mystery location. Details will be revealed at the September meeting or you may call the office.

Saturday—November 1—Festival of Trees exhibition opens at the Old Stone Store.

Friday—November 14—Arlo, Alice & the Anglicans with Laura Lee at 7:30 p.m., Old Parish Church.

Saturday—November 29—Festival of Trees. Look to the

November newsletter for details.

THANK YOU for another successful summer season! The opening event was the annual Garden Party, and what a day it was! If you liked rain, then this was the party to attend. Mother Nature shared her moisture with us all afternoon, but there were no soggy spirits at this party. Thanks to the Browns' generosity, the party was moved indoors and even those walking or touring about in the rain thoroughly enjoyed the day.

A number of new faces joined us this year for both Family Day and the Revolutionary Period tours. The summer ended with fine foods at the Pig Roast. All of these events could not have occurred without the talents and services of so many members. A job WELL DONE!

Thank you to all those who have given to the Society's first Annual Appeal, which began in April of 2003. In addition to the listing in the June newsletter, contributions have been received over the summer months from:

Neil and Kathleen Chrisman
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Collins
Mr. Abbott Combes

Robert Duncan Corser
Hilde Guttentplan
Joyce and Ross Hawkins

Kingsley and Sally Kelly
Rev. John S. Lis
John-Arthur and Trudy Miller
Bob and Nancy Rathbun
Ann M. Riou

Howard Justus Swanson
Don and Claire Ward

in honor of James Welch Jr.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Dear Members and Friends:

The Society is beginning to chart its course for the next five years and seeks community input for that planning process. Please feel free to offer your suggestions on ways in which the Society would be the logical organization to fill a need that will better serve the community. Your input is a critical part of planning for that future.

Please keep in mind that the Sheffield Historical Society was formed in 1972, through the efforts of many community members who sought to preserve their local heritage for future generations. The Society's collection focuses on the 1700s through about 1950. The Society has grown in every direction, to the point where it now maintains seven historic structures from the 18th and 19th centuries and carries out year-round programming.

The Society held an initial planning meeting in June. The following areas for future consideration were raised: **Educational Programming**--includes school age and adult, **Financial**--includes annual appeal, fundraising, rents, grants, **Collections and Facilities**--includes buildings & grounds, maintenance, inventories, **Stone Store**--includes shop, exhibits, rentals, **Mark Dewey Research Center**--includes equipment, cataloging, publications.

The following are questions the Society wishes to have public responses to (but feel free to address other issues).

- ▶ Are there new ways in which the Society can raise the level of its active membership and involve more members of the community in its programming?
- ▶ Are there programs that you would like to see the Society offer?
- ▶ Are there workshops that the Society should be offering to the public?
- ▶ Are there ways in which the Society can increase its revenues and secure financial stability?

Please use the back of this form to provide additional comments.

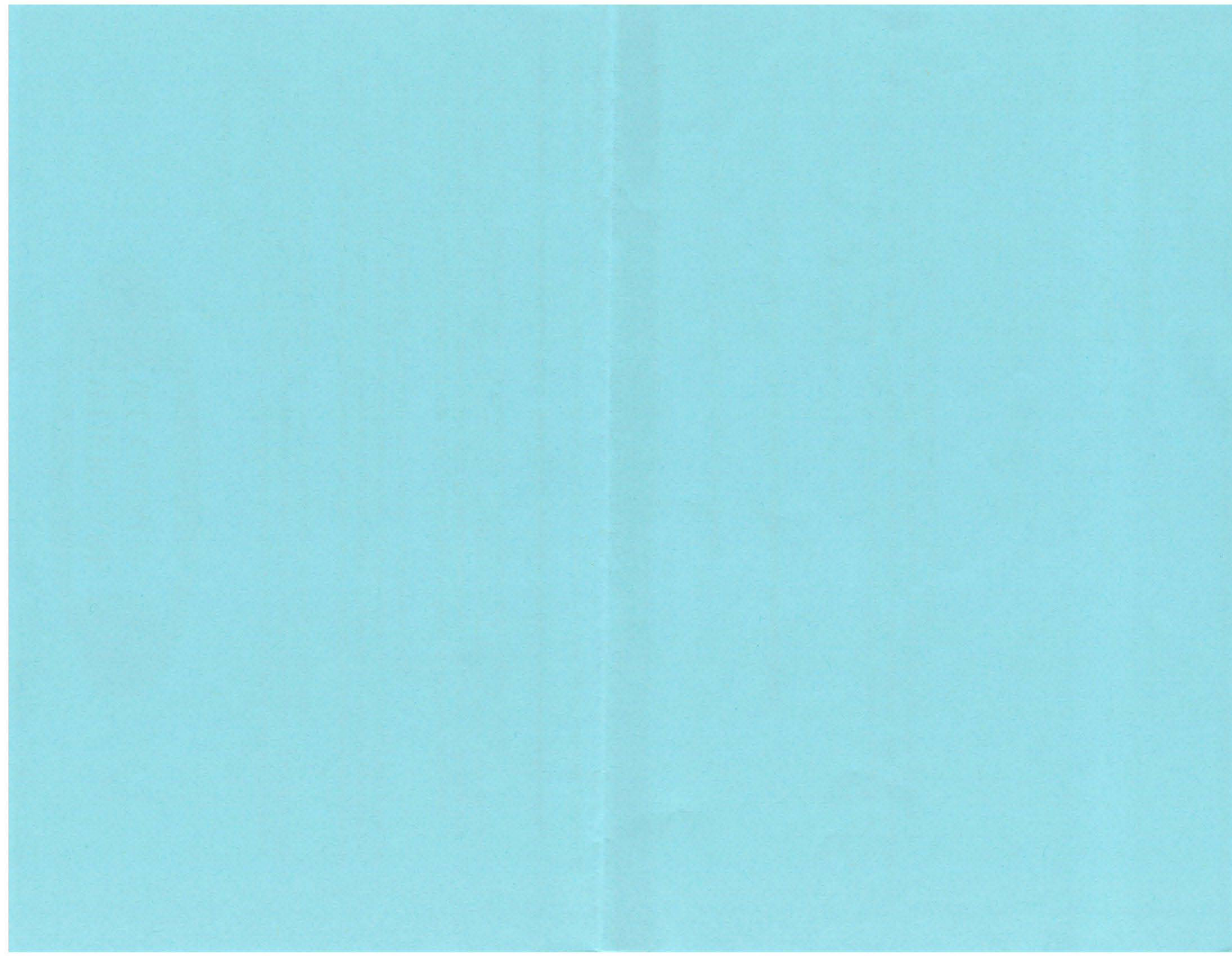
Choose the response form that is easiest for you. You may call the Society at 229-2694, drop this form in the mail to the Sheffield Historical Society, PO Box 747, Sheffield, or e-mail us at shs@sheffieldhistory.org. Feel free to call the Society if you have questions, or if you would like to work with us in a greater degree, as we develop this plan. THANK YOU! (Please feel free to send in this form anonymously if you prefer.)

Name _____
Address _____

Phone _____

I would like to participate in a focus group on one of the above five topics _____

The focus group I am most interested in is _____



Reports

President's Report

As the new president of one of the most active Historical Societies in Berkshire County, I feel honored to have been selected as your President for the next two years. It will be a truly challenging task for me to follow in the footsteps of Dorothy Marosy, the outgoing president, who led the Society through a time of both difficult endeavors and impressive growth. Dorothy put in countless, tireless hours for the benefit of keeping the Society on its feet and moving forwards, with the help of the many volunteers and our executive director Joanne Hurlbut. I only hope that I can do half as well as she did. Thank you, Dorothy, for a job well done.

I am grateful for the presence of such dedicated volunteers. Manning the Stone Store on Saturdays and Sundays is one of the biggest challenges for our members. I am a regular Stone Store volunteer, so I speak firsthand when I say that it's a task you will enjoy doing! I am counting on more members to help work at the Store, so call me (229-2668) or the office (229-2694) to find out more about the job or to sign up.

As of now, we will continue to offer the educational programs that we have had in the past, and we will try to get additional grants for new programs and activities. Other projects that will be carried on are the daily tours, special cemetery tours, and the upcoming Festival of Trees event.

I look forward to sharing with you at the September meeting the successful tale of the first major event of my tenure, the Pig Roast, which took place on Saturday, August 23.

Fund raising over the next year will be a major emphasis for the Society. Right now, we are continually running in the red and trying to keep our head above water. We are fortunate in that we do have some funds to draw upon and that our annual appeal will help bring in new revenues.

So with that all said, let's get on with the work that has to be done.

Wray Gunn

Treasurer's Report

Sheffield Historical Society, Inc. Statement of Activity of the Year Ended June 30, 2003

<u>REVENUE</u>	
Annual Appeal, Grants	22,943
Donations – Stone Store	8,557
Donations – In Kind	10,588
Store, Book Sales, Programs	<u>18,579</u>
<u>TOTAL REVENUE</u>	<u>60,667</u>

<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Salary & Taxes	36,271
Program Expenses	10,976
Special Events	3,869
Scholarship	1,500
Utilities	7,347
Maintenance	6,525
Insurance	3,761
Supplies	2,138
Postage/Newsletter	1,914
Meetings	992
Professional Fees	2,730
Miscellaneous	1,889
Investment Fees	3,023
In-Kind Expenses	9,288
Depreciation	<u>31,992</u>
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	<u>124,215</u>

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE OTHER ITEMS (63,548)

Investment Income	24,407
Realized Gains(Losses) Investments	(90,844)
Interest Expense	(3,451)
Net Change/Unrealized Gains(Losses)	<u>53,324</u>

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS (80,112)

NET ASSETS – JULY 1 1,461,337

NET ASSETS – JUNE 30 1,381,225

Finance Committee Action

Concerned with a growing deficit for the past several years that threatens the survival of the Society, its Finance Committee has recommended to the Board of Trustees, three possible courses of action: 1) reduce expenses even further; 2) increase fund raising; 3) redeploy assets, which could include selling or renting Society real estate. In spite of containing expenses, the Society ended this year with a \$35,000.00 deficit. In addition, the mortgage on the Old Stone Store is \$77,000.00.

The Society hopes its members will take time to consider the future of the Society. A page is enclosed on the Strategic Planning process. Please be sure to take the time to fill it in and return it with your ideas. You are welcome to participate at any stage of the process.



159 Main Street
PO Box 747
Sheffield, MA 01257

Phone: 413-229-2694
Email: shs@sheffieldhistory.org

Tours of the 1774 Dan Raymond House are available
Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by
appointment.

Mark Dewey Research Center open Monday and
Friday afternoons, 1:30 to 4 p.m., and by
appointment.

Stone Store hours are Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and
Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

WE'RE ON THE WEB
SHEFFIELDHISTORY.ORG

Board of Directors

Wray Gunn, *President*

John-Arthur Miller, *Vice-
President*

Catherine Miller, *Treasurer*

James Miller, *Clerk*

Trustees:

Harry Conklin

Barbara Delmolino

Cory Hines

Rene Wood

Joanne Hurlbut, *Director*

MDRC Archival Facts

In 1901 Sophia Curtiss, probably the first car owner in Sheffield, brought her new machine, large enough to carry several of her friends, to Sheffield. It was purchased in New York and she was able to ride the entire distance in one day.

The Berkshire Street Railway came to Sheffield on May 29, 1911, when a car carrying company officers stopped in front of George Scott's drugstore (Bartholomew Block). Eventually it was possible to travel by streetcar from Canaan, Connecticut, via Bennington, Vermont, to Hoosick Falls, New York.

In 1905 the Conway House, a hotel on the present site of Gulotta Brothers Mobil Station, could accommodate 75 tourists. Room and board was \$9.00 per week for adults, \$5.00 for children.

EXHIBITIONS

The exhibition now in the Stone Store is *Spend a Summer in Sheffield & Environs: The Tourism Trade in the Railroad Era*. The new exhibition in the Dan Raymond house is *Sheffield's Chapeaus: Hats from A Bygone Era*. Both exhibitions run through October.

Save these dates:

October 4—Cemetery Walk

October 18—Spirits of Sheffield

November 29—Festival of Trees



Sheffield Historical Society

June 2003 Newsletter

► New Tourism Publication! ◀

Summer is for tourism in all its splendor, both for those who travel to a new region and for those who leave their homes to enjoy the special places in their own backyards. Therefore, the Sheffield Historical Society invites all tourists to join in the exploration of the Berkshire region. The Society's project *Spend a Summer in Sheffield & Environs: The Tourism Trade in the Railroad Era* encompasses a talk, an exhibit, and a publication on tourism.

The Society, as the recipient of the Scholars in Residence project, a grant cosponsored by the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities and the Bay State Historical League, has been able to study in depth over 100 years of local tourism. The funds provided a stipend for local historian and author Bernard Drew to work within the Society's archives to research the topic. The project analyzed the changes in a community as it transitioned from a walking town to one heavily affected by mechanization and mass transit. In turn, it studied how people responded to these outside pressures through the adaptation of their living environments. Among the many topics covered during the research were the construction of the Housatonic Railroad in the 1840s, the growth of country inns and taverns, the advent of farm and home boarding facilities, and the popularity of natural landmarks (among them

Sage's Ravine and The Dome).

Bernard Drew has extensive research, writing, editing, and publishing qualifications, in particular on matters of local significance. He is one of the Berkshires' noted speakers, on a wide range of historical topics. Drew's work for this project on tourism will be available at the end of June. **To reserve your copy,** please call the Society at (413) 229-2694.

The exhibition will open at the Old Stone Store with a reception on July 19 at 2 p.m. and will remain on view until the end of August. Drew will speak on the topic at the opening reception. The talk will be given outside (unless we are driven inside by Mother Nature); so bring your lawn chair and sit back to listen to Drew as he relates the stories of Sheffield's past tourists. This outdoor gathering will also give you a chance to view the new garden area of the Stone Store. Refreshments will be served.

The exhibition, based on the research findings, will include photographs and memorabilia from a number of once popular destinations. Did you know that if you suffered from Scrofula

Dyspepsia, Chronic Rheumatism, or Gout, a sure cure could be found in the "Pool?" In the 1850s-1870s, many a tourist visited the Sheffield springs to take the natural cure. The pool was labeled "unsurpassed for medicinal virtues." In fact, its mineral waters were served in the Collins House sanitarium, located on Maple Avenue, by Dr. Clarkson T. Collins.

Drew is following in the footsteps of many who have sung the praises of the Southern Berkshires, often with the direct intention of increasing local tourism. Rev. Orville W. Dewey's daughter Mary composed the following lines over 100 years ago: "In following the course of the Housatonic through Berkshire, the southernmost of the villages strung like beads upon its shining thread, is Sheffield, lying in a peaceful breadth of valley, where every thing speaks of calm and repose."

Take time this summer to see the beauty of this region by visiting the exhibition or relaxing with this new publication on tourism.



ANNUAL REPORTS

Collections Committee

Committee Members: Betty Chapin, Connie Logan, Carl Proper and Doreen Atwood. Also present President Dorothy Marosy and Director Joanne Hurlbut.

The Sheffield Historical Society has benefited greatly from the grant funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities for two workshops. We met in October 2002 with Gwen Spicer, who presented a workshop on textile conservation. Society members learned to properly store quilts, coverlets, and clothing using the techniques taught at the workshop. We also met twice with Lori van Handel, who presented workshops on mounting objects. As a result the Bradford portraits have been rehung, a very large map from the law office was properly protected, and other items in the collection have been remounted.

I would like to thank the following members of the Society who attended workshops and followed up with conservation work on the collection: Dorothy Marosy, Jim Miller, Marion Whitman, Boyd Hutchison, Cory Hines, Connie Logan, and especially Anne Riou, all with the guidance of Joanne Hurlbut. The collection will benefit in the future with the ongoing conservation of its varied items.

Dorothy and I have begun photographing the collection with a digital camera so as to record the collection, with it eventually entering into the Past Perfect collection software program. This will better identify

and record information on each item in the collection. An informal appraisal of the collection has taken place for insurance purposes.

Several exhibits at the Stone Store have been well attended. An exhibit of farm equipment from the collection of a society member and a private collector took place in the fall. Currently there is a fine exhibit of early Sheffield and Massachusetts ephemera, again from the society's collection and from a private collector. The Stone Store has also been made available to local groups outside the SHS for exhibits.

Several items have been donated to the Society over the past year by a number of local residents. Many donations are textiles, as well as a variety of other Sheffield items.

Doreen Atwood, Chairman



The Mark Dewey Research

Center has been kept busy this year with many inquiries and visitors. The volunteers have worked over 1600 hours at the Center, which is open Monday and Friday from 1:30 to 4:00 and by appointment.

Among the many requests we received was one from the Appomattox Court House seeking in-

formation on Sheffield's Gen. Barnard. Another came from the Smithsonian Institution, looking for information on the Saxton Family. In June we had a group of students from Mt. Everett tour the Center to learn about all the resources we have available.

We have put three picture displays at the library, on Sheffield's Irish, Blacks, and farms. In November we had a display at the monthly meeting on Sheffield's Veterans. At the Stone Store we have displayed pictures and journals on the early farms, with the tools displayed by Milton Barnum and Tony Carlotto. The Paper Trail exhibit at the Stone Store, organized by James Miller and Tony Carlotto, will run through mid-July.

Bernard A. Drew has done research at the Center for a book about the tourist trade in Sheffield in the early railroad era. This book will be published and for sale by the Society. This was made possible by a grant.

We have been given the following, which are great additions to our collection:

- Greenwood Family papers
- McNeil Genealogy and Civil War Journal
- Schellenger family research
- Wright family research
- Dewey Genealogy
- Ingersol Genealogy
- Parson Genealogy
- A collection of WWI picture section of newspapers
- An antique watch which belonged to a Kellogg

Annual Reports, continued

Just recently we were given by Bernard Drew a collection of about 500 *Couriers* from the 1960's and 1970's. It has taken us about two months to read, clip, copy, and file information about Sheffield and its people.

Committee:

Doreen Atwood
James Miller, Archivist
David Prouty

*Respectfully submitted,
Betty Chapin, Director*

Outreach Committee:

This last year featured nine memorable programs and our Annual Meeting. Society members and friends enjoyed a variety of programs ranging from our annual What's It? Night, which featured a truly unique family heirloom, to Civil War history, a moving evening of local war memories, and readings of famous Berkshire authors and the poetry of two young girls from Mt. Washington. Programs for the upcoming year promise to be just as interesting and unique.

Committee members: Dorothy Marosy, Marion Whitman, Marilyn Wightman and myself, with our informal advisors Doreen Atwood and James Miller, all worked hard to provide the variety that has made this monthly event so popular. Thank you for an outstanding job!

*Respectfully submitted,
Rene Wood, Chair*

Treasurer's Report

The annual year of the Sheffield Historical Society is from July 1 - June 30. Since the books have not closed for the current fiscal year, the Report of the Treasurer will appear in the late summer or early fall newsletter.

Catherine Miller

President's Report

The past three years have been challenging, interesting, and successful. There have been a variety of programs and activities, some of which have been ongoing for 30 years, and others are new. Two special events, "The Music of George Washington's Time" and "The Music and Words of Sheffield's Civil War Residents," were exciting additions. The monthly programs, workshops, field trips, and cemetery stroll continue to attract people from outside Sheffield.

The Smokehouse was acquired and restored, and is now part of the "Place in Time" school program. Classes from other school districts now participate in the program, fulfilling our community outreach goal. Collaborative programs with the Bushnell Sage Library and Trustees of Reservations have helped to establish the society as part of the community.

The Stone Store renovation is 95% completed and has been the site for special exhibits and an expanding gift shop. Two celebrations were held: the 10th anniversary of the Mark Dewey Research Center and the 30th anniversary of the Society. The book "Early Life in Sheffield" was un-

veiled at the first annual Garden Party. Many visitors toured the Historic Sites and Structures as part of the House Tour in Ashley Falls and Sheffield.

The Festival of Trees, highlighting decorated trees and holiday decorations, continues to grow in scope and attendance.

Through grants received, the collections are being properly stored and catalogued.

The mailing list has been expanded and updated, and all correspondence efficiently handled. Hospitality chairpersons and their committees have provided refreshments, which have always been an important aspect of the Society. These successes are due to the many volunteers who have responded when the call went out for assistance. I thank the officers and trustees who over the past three years have been supportive, understanding, and always hands on. A special thanks to Joanne, whose sense of humor and professionalism has made the job so much easier. It has been a privilege to serve as president.

Dorothy Marosy

Nominating Committee:

Inez Flinn, Pauline Schuman, and Marilyn Wightman offer the following names for election at the Annual Meeting:

Wray Gunn, President
Jim Miller, Secretary
Trustee:
Harry Conklin and Cory Hines

ANNUAL REPORTS cont'd

Directors' Report

The Sheffield Historical Society is very fortunate to have a number of loyal supporters. Volunteers often give of their time, talents, and financial resources. **Thank you to all those who have given to the Society's first Annual Appeal, which began in April of 2003. To date, contributors are:**

Emily and John Alexander
Doreen and Walter Atwood
Betty and Fred Bangs
Ann Barrett
Dana and Beth Bartholomew
Paul Benjou and P.J. Bradley
in memory of Robert Forman
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bennett
Richard Bernstein
Robin Berthet
Jean W. Blackmur
Pamela Bloodworth
Gardner Botsford
Richard and Joan Brooks
Lucy Brotman
Bill and Penny Browne
Paul and Tanya Buckner
Thomas F. Buckley, Jr.
Grace Campbell
Sharon and Jeff Casdin
Aidan Cassidy and Charles Teti
George and Dorothy Caul
Elizabeth M. Chapin
Rose Chapin
Gerry and Barbara Clow
Chris Coenen and Amanda Morgan
Dr. and Mrs. Noel L. Cohen
William and Jacqueline Connell
Connie Cooper
Howard and Dorothy Crockett
Miss Jean Curtiss
Mr. and Mrs. Francis J. Dallett
Richard and Sheila Drill
Mr. Charles A. DuCharme, III
Janet and Bart Elsbach
Peter and Patricia Elsbach
Elaine Friedman
Warner Friedman
Frank Garretson and
Helen Bray-Garrestson

Rene Gibson
Ruth A. Gillette
John and Elsie Gilligan
Bill Gillooly
William Grief and Leonard Graziano
Wray M. Gunn and Cora Portnoff
Robert and Deann Halper
Samuel and Sally Herrup
Mr. and Mrs. James R. Hurley
Keith T. Hyatt
Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Joch, Jr.
Athena and Richard Kimball
Nancy Kriegel
Allison G. Lasso
Marc Lavietes and Rose Rosal
Gary LeBeau
Mr and Mrs. Morton Levin
Mrs. Bohn C. Lindemann
Roy Lindstrom and Nancy Elliott
Connie Logan
Susan Lushing
in honor of Wallace Kaminsky
Bob and Sue Mac Veety
in honor of Floyd Woodbeck
Mr. and Mrs. A. Malnati
Barbara and Norman Margolis
Dorothy Marosy
Barbara Martin
Christopher Martin
Dawn and Henry Massini
Mary Ellen McNeil
James and Catherine Miller
Daniel and Anne Moulton
Norma Moulton
Patrice Mullin
C. Twigg Myers
in memory of Arthur C. Chase
Judith A. Nelson
Kathie Ness and John James
Nancy F. Nirenberg
Elisabeth H. O'Connor
Thomas W. Orlando
John and Charlotte Owens
Alexander Papachristou
Richard Pearse and
Nancy O'Donohue
David and Marsha Pottle
Susan Rothschild and Don Freedman
Peter and Ellen Rowntree
Bob Rueger
Judy and Bill Schnurr
Becky and Ken Schopp
Charles and Pauline Schumann
Gary and Judy Schumer
Andrea Scott and Rob Jenter

David Sepsenwol
Myron and Marcia Sheinberg
Barbara and Jim Shiminski,
in memory of Mildred T. Roys
Susan Silver
George T. Smith
Janet G. Stanton
John and Katherine Stookey
Ethel T. Storer
in memory of Mildred Roys
Robert and Rebecca Thomas
Ronald and Judith Timm
Peter Traub
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Trocchi
Merle and Karen Varney
Loet and Edith Velmans
in honor of PJ Schafer
Paula Wardynski
Jane F. Warner
Massage Therapy Assoc./
Jonathan Weinress
David and Barbara West
F. Robert Wheeler, Jr.
Roberta L. Wheeler
Thomas and Joan Wiehl
John and Marilyn Wightman
Nancy and Don Williams
William and Elizabeth Wilson
Ali Azarva Winston
Jim and June Wolfe
Rene Wood and Dennis Sears
Tom and Susan Young

This appeal has met with great success!

In addition to the financial donations, there is an enormous amount of work regularly carried out by Society volunteers. I wish to thank in particular those who have worked with me during the past year for school programming. The number of groups has continued to increase—this spring the number doubled! Several school systems outside of Sheffield visited SHS. The length of time spent here by several groups has increased, some visits were four hours!

More Summer Happenings

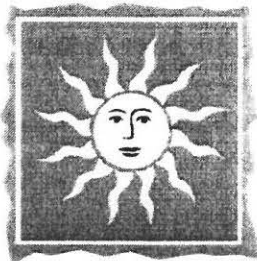
As a result of the National Endowment for the Humanities grant, a number of workshops have been held to provide training and the resulting opportunity for improving our collections care. Thank you to the intrepid collections volunteers, who have been willing to take on many challenging tasks.

During the past year, the Society celebrated its 30th year with a number of festivities. In addition, a number of new collaborative programs such, as *Songs Sung in Sheffield* and the school vacation workshop, were held. The Society conducted a house tour, its annual Cemetery Stroll, special walks, along with its regular monthly programs. The Stone Store has now offered a number of excellent exhibitions, from farming to textiles to paper. A special thanks to all those who have staffed the Stone Store and to those who have helped develop the exhibits.

It is clear that this is one very busy organization! After four years here, I will mention the same impressive conclusion: my colleagues and the public are amazed at all that we do and how well we do it! I wish to extend a special thanks to Dorothy Marosy, who it has been a pleasure to work with these past three years.

Joanne Hurlbut

The summer solstice will soon be upon us, and this year mem-



bers will celebrate the season at the **Annual Garden Party on Saturday, June 21, from 3 to 6 p.m.** Members are still talking about last year's first-ever garden party, and this year's event will be just as spectacular. The party will take place in the gardens at Ashley Pond, a private home on the site of the historic Ashley Falls quarry.

Attendees will have the opportunity to stroll around the pond, hear about the quarry in its heyday, and view an exhibit on the quarry. Fine food and beverages will be served al fresco, and guest performers will provide musical accompaniment. (Comfortable flat shoes are suggested.)

Reservations are required. Be sure to reserve your ticket soon: directions will be provided upon registration. **Tickets are \$25 per person.**

For the third summer in a row, the Trustees of Reservations and SHS will co-sponsor three special events. **Family Day** will be held on **Saturday, July 12, from noon to 5 p.m.**

The Dan Raymond House and the Col. Ashley House will offer a number of hands-on activities, demonstrations, and tours. This year's focus is on everyday plants, which were such a significant part of life in early America. Discussions of the plants used in cooking will be offered at the Dan Raymond House, and the smokehouse will be in operation. Atten-

dees will be able to go on a plant walk on the grounds and make an herbal sachet. Among the activities at the Col. Ashley house will be the



making of cornhusk dolls. Admission: Adults 1/2 usual price, children and members free.

The joint programs continue with **Revolutionary Period Tours to be offered on Saturdays July 26 and August 23.** The tours begin at the Dan Raymond House at 1:30 p.m.

What was the material life of our founding families really like? An exploration of their times begins with viewing of a number of 18th-century documents from the Mark Dewey Research Center archives. The group then moves on to visit material objects now on view in both the Dan Raymond and Col. Ashley homes. Size is limited: members free, non-members \$5. Reservations suggested: call 229-2694.

ITEMS SOUGHT FOR SUMMER EXHIBIT

The Society is seeking to augment its exhibition on tourism, which will open in July. Do you have any 19th- or early 20th-century souvenirs from Sheffield and environs? If you are willing to lend them for this summer, please call the office.



159 Main Street
PO Box 747
Sheffield, MA 01257

Phone: 413-229-2694
Email: shs@sheffieldhistory.org

Tours of the 1774 Dan Raymond House are available Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by appointment.

Mark Dewey Research Center open Monday and Friday afternoons, 1:30 to 4 p.m., and by appointment.

Stone Store hours are Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

WE'RE ON THE WEB
SHEFFIELDHISTORY.ORG

Board of Directors

Dorothy Marosy, *President*

Wray Gunn, *Vice-President*

Catherine Miller, *Treasurer*

Harry Conklin, *Clerk*

Trustees:

Doreen Atwood

James Miller

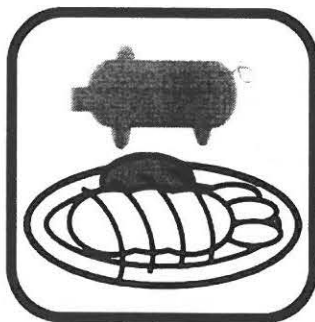
John-Arthur Miller

Marilyn Wightman

Rene Wood

Joanne Hurlbut, *Director*

Pig Roast



Take a break in your busy summer schedule and join Society members this summer for a Pig Roast. **Saturday, August 23**, is the date for this new event, which will take place at the American Legion in Sheffield.

The afternoon's activities include marvelous foodstuffs, entertainment by Tom Ingersoll, artisan's booths, and more.

Scott Ryan will be in charge of serving up the pig roast. Ticket prices will be adults \$15, children \$8; children under 8 will be free.

The Society is now taking reservations for artisans who wish to operate a booth during the festivities. Please call the office at 413-229-2694 if you would like more information about reserving a booth.

Events such as this require the efforts of many hands. If you would like to volunteer to help out with the day, please call the office.

Save these dates:

June 21—Garden Party
July 12—Family Day
July 19—Exhibit Opening
August 23—Pig Roast



Sheffield Historical Society

November 2003

New Adventures!

NEWLY STOCKED SHELVES in the OLD STONE STORE



Looking for just the right presents for your holiday giving? Well, look no further than

the Society's own Shop. Sheffield residents shopped there during the good old Victorian holidays and now you can keep up that tradition! Volunteer Shop Manager Dorothy Marosy and her stalwart assistant Doreen Atwood have been working hard to bring you items of high quality at reasonable prices. They have traveled to trade shows, used the modern surfing technologies of on-line sales, and searched regionally for the works of local artists. They stocked the shelves in October and your response has been of such good cheer that you even bought out some items as fast as they could get them on the shelves! More orders have been placed and all of the Stone Store volunteers are ready to lend a helping hand with your shopping. Items new for this year include folk art prints, bobbin lights, various ornaments including the hand-painted Old Parish Church, the third in our collector's series, and hand-made textiles.

HOLIDAY ART SHOW
IN THE STONE STORE



"INTIMATE
TREASURES" opens on Wednesday.

December 3 at 11 am. The Sheffield Art League is sponsoring the show, which will include "The Artists' Expressions of Whoever. Whatever. Wherever" displayed in approximately forty paintings and small sculptures.

The opening reception takes place between the hours of 1:30 and 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 6.

The show runs for the month of December. Hours: Weekdays, 11 to 4; Saturday, 10 to 2; Sunday, 11 to 4. Closed on the holidays.

OUR FIRST CONCERT SERIES...

Mark your winter calendars!!

Spend three wintry Sunday afternoons enjoying warm friendships, great music, enlightening history, and appealing refreshments.

John-Arthur Miller, Sheffield resident and musician, will present three programs, each in a different Sheffield home. The programs will be fashioned on the early salon musicales, but with an interesting twist—music heard thanks to the early technology of Thomas Alva Edison.

Edison developed a new and innovative recording process that was the Rolls Royce of the recording industry between 1888 and 1929. The air will be filled with the amazing sound of these historic recordings.



Sunday, January 18th, 2:00 PM
Wine and Opera on the Old Edison

Sunday, February 15th, 2:00 PM
Wine, Chocolate, and Love Songs
with Your Valentine

Sunday, March 28th, 2:00 PM
March Out Like a Lamb with John
Philip Sousa on the Old Edison

Minimum contribution for the series:
\$75

Minimum contribution per single
concert: \$30

Seating Limited! Reserve Early!

COLLECTIONS ON THE WEB

The Society's portraits of the Rev. James and Margaret Bradford were just put on line on the website devoted to their creator, Nelson Cook, an artist of some prominence in the 19th century. The only known sitters from Massachusetts were the Bradfords (painted in 1847). Check out www.nelsoncook.com to see details of "Mrs. Bradford, the best single portrait rendering on the site."

Calendar of Events 2003-2004



The Sheffield Historical Society announces its 5th Annual **FESTIVAL OF TREES**, a favorite event in Sheffield's celebration of the holidays.

The **HOLIDAY SHOWCASE** is now on view in the Old Stone Store on the Green in Sheffield. David Walker-Price has again created a handsome window display, and the ever popular community-inspired miniature trees await

your viewing and purchase. Raffle items this year include a candy replica of the Congregational Church, a freshly cut Christmas tree, and a locally created quilted wall hanging. New this year are classic holiday stockings made by local residents, and holiday jewelry.

Early Bidding for the Silent Auction of miniature trees and menorahs will take place on Friday, November 28, from 4 to 6 p.m. Other items available that day include boxwood trees and ornaments. **The Silent Auction hours on Saturday, November 29, will be 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Both events will take place at the Stone Store.**

Come and get in the mood for the holidays—and shop for decorations and gifts. Keep in mind that the Society is again offering Holiday Wreaths—see the order form.

December 12—Holiday Music with the Mt. Everett Madrigal Group, at 7:30 p.m., Fellowship Rooms of Old Parish Church. Nancy Loder will direct the student ensemble as they perform a number of selections: most of the selections will be a cappella. The singers are from grades nine through twelve and they love to sing Renaissance music.

January 9—What's It? Night with Milt Barnum & Chris Coenen, at 7:30 p.m., Fellowship Rooms of Old Parish Church. The ever popular program is on again—get out your gadgets to stump the experts!

January 19—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day-- A Special Family Event, 1 p.m., a joint program with the Bushnell-Sage Library to be held at the Library.

February 13—Ancient Cairns of our Native American Landscape Heritage, with George B. Emmons, at 7:30 p.m., Fellowship Rooms of Old Parish Church. An oral and pictorial presentation describing the landmarks and monuments of indigenous people of the Woodland period—including the Mahicans and Mohegans—with a discussion of their burial customs. Native American items recently donated to the Society by Rodney Palmer will also be on view.

February 18—School vacation workshop: "Kids Crazy for Quilting," a joint program with the Bushnell-Sage Library and the

Berkshire Quilters' Guild. A popular annual project: a hands-on program that allows today's youth to join in an age-old process of self-discovery and fun! A program for 8- to 12-year-olds, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring a bag lunch. Registration required. Fee.

March 12—The History of the American Elm and the Sheffield Plantings, with Tom Zetterstrom, at 7:30 p.m., Fellowship Rooms of Old Parish Church. Zetterstrom has been a leading figure in the national Elm Watch program.

Sheffield's Kiwanis Club Celebrates 50 Years of Service will be the **March exhibition** in the Stone Store. This international organization began in 1915 and now exists in 82 nations and geographic areas. Come and see how local members of this community-service organization have made a difference in our region!

Thank you! New contributors to the Annual Appeal since the Fall newsletter are:

Michael and Wendy Advocate

Sandra and Dale Alden

Ann Barrett

Barbara E. Delmolino

Inez Flinn

Natalie H. Funk

Anita and Tom Garrett

Anthony Sabatelli in honor of

Daniel Sabatelli

Cathryn Clary and Ed Schweizer

David J. Walker-Price

On-line shoppers, don't forget you can help out the Society by using Shopformuseums.com.



Sheffield Historical Society
2003
Holiday Wreath Order Form



Quantities are limited – please order early.

Wreath #1: 12-inch wreath, Burgundy & Gold bow with gold decorations.

Wreath #2: 12-inch wreath, Double Gold bow with gold decorations.

All wreaths made of balsam/evergreens. SHS reserves the flexibility to substitute another bow of comparable quality.

To order: please mail this completed form, along with your check, to:
Sheffield Historical Society, PO Box 747, Sheffield, MA 01257-0747 or fax to 413-229-7761.

Name: _____ Address : _____
(Required if you request local delivery.)

Phone #: _____

Email _____

Wreath # 1 Quantity _____ @ \$ 27.50 each Total Amount: \$ _____

Wreath # 2 Quantity _____ @ \$ 27.50 each Total Amount: \$ _____

Grand Total & Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

You may request delivery if you live in the Sheffield and Ashley Falls area. By mutual agreement, deliveries will be made the week of Dec. 1st. Otherwise, wreaths may be picked up at the Society headquarters, 159 Main Street, Sheffield, M-F between 10 and 4. We will phone or email you to confirm your delivery or pickup date.



Thank you for your support & Happy Holidays!





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Trustees:

Marcia Brolli

Harry E. Conklin

Barbara Delmolino

Allison G. Lassoe

Rene Wood

Joanne Hurlbut, *Director*

MDRC Archival Facts

Frederick Augustus Porter Barnard, Sheffield born, became the tenth president of Columbia College (now University) in 1864. He filled that office for 25 years and during that time was a firm advocate of women's education. Barnard College was later named for him.

In 1866 the Sheffield China Clay Company was formed by Archibald Taft to capitalize on the fine white clay beds in the southeastern part of Sheffield. The concern manufactured pottery and fire brick.

Sheffield's original Catholic Church, the Church of the Assumption, was built in 1884. It

burned on August 18, 1904, the victim of a lightning strike. By September 1905, the new building, Our Lady of the Valley, was dedicated.

Southern Berkshire Regional School District was the first regional school in Massachusetts and it opened in September 1955. Today it consists of the towns of Sheffield, Monterey, New Marlborough, Egremont, and Alford.

A lych-gate, designed by Roger W. Drury, was added to the property of Christ Church in 1970.

Save these dates:

November 28—Early Bidding

November 29—Festival of Trees

**December 6—Art Show Opening
Reception**



Sheffield Historical Society

June 2004 Newsletter

"Pieces of History," Saturday, July 10, Silent Auction & Tag Sale,— Quality AND Quantity

What do you need? What would you like? What are you giving your niece for Christmas? What would look nice over the fireplace or on the dining room table? What would sell well in your antique shop?

Come to the **Giant Silent Auction & Fantabulous Tag Sale** on Saturday, July 10, at the Sheffield American Legion Hall from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., to find the perfect items.

Titled "Pieces of History," the sale will benefit the educational programs of the Sheffield Historical Society. Items from around the world have been donated: a 10-day stay in a private home on a Greek Island, a watercolor of a French village (c. 1930) by David Humphreys, an Royal Crown Derby Imari 10" bowl, an enormous antique coffee tin, Staffordshire, Italian glass, French yarn, and more from Venice, Japan, England, Burma, Mexico, and Germany. From the United States come household items such as furniture, linens, silver and glass, dish sets, and kitchen ware. Also in the silent Auction will be items of local interest such as a vintage beige cutwork dress (with provenance), private historical research and tours, and art work.

And it is not too late to donate items. Co-chairs Rene Wood (229-2875) and Jim Miller (229-8668) are still accepting 'fine' goods and 'good' goods to be sold at this one-day sale. Call them or the Historical Society (229-2694) to arrange pickup.



Wray Gunn (229-2668) and his committee have collected certificates for meals and services, wine selections, travel and vacation arrangements, movie tickets, evaluations, car wash, liquor, and more.

THE SILENT AUCTION. Come at 9 a.m. to place your first bid. Check in during the day to see how your bid is faring. Return at mid-afternoon to place your final bid; last bidding takes place at 3 p.m.

While you aim for that special auction item, peruse the fabulous Tag Sale at the same time.

THE TAG SALE. Not quite special enough for the silent auction, but fabulous none-the-less, zillions of items will be available to take home right away. If you don't have that competitive spirit and just want to take your booty and go home, this is your part of the event.

SPECIAL EARLY BIRD BONUS SHOPPING will be held from 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. for a donation of \$10.

LUNCH under the auspices of Chef Harry Conklin will be available from 11:30 a.m.—2 p.m.

PICK-UP DETAILS. Items will be available for pick-up from 6-8 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday and thereafter at the Sheffield Historical Society office.

DONORS: All items given to The Sheffield Historical Society for this sale are tax deductible. Please request a "Donor Contribution Form" when your goods are picked up.



Annual Reports

Collections Committee

Committee Members: Betty Chapin, Connie Logan, Dorothy Marosy, Carl Proper, and Doreen Atwood

This past year, Director Joanne Hurlbut, applied for the National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation Assistance Grant to assist the Society with the proper care of the collection. The grant, valued at \$5,000, was awarded to the Society in December. This is a continuation from the CAP and the previous PAC reports. Information from the survey Gwen Spicer produced under the PAC is now being implemented. Under the grant, new shelving, acid-free boxes, and muslin have been purchased for storage preservation. The textile collection will be rehoused over the next several months. Many thanks to Anne Riou for her help in setting up the shelving system.

Several exhibits at the Stone Store have involved items from the collection. Those exhibits included items from Sheffield Inns for the summer exhibit, ice cutting materials for the winter exhibit, and redware and kitchen items for the recent collaborative exhibit with the Bidwell House of Monterey and the Col. John Ashley House of Ashley Falls. An exhibit of historic hats and associated materials has been on going in the exhibit room of the Dan Raymond House. Three large glass cases were purchased from Bradford's Auction House to be used for displaying valued pieces of the collection when on exhibit at the Stone Store.

Doreen Atwood,
Chairman, Collections Committee

Mark Dewey Research Center

The Center, staffed by volunteers, has

helped over two hundred people this year.

We have put up two picture displays at the library, one on the Sheffield quarries and the other on school groups dating from the 1890s.

We were given a great used computer and we purchased a color printer which produces fine quality prints. Also, we purchased a book of the published sermons of the Rev. Ephraim Judson, the third minister at Old Parish Church from 1791-1813, and an autograph of George F. Root.

Two very interesting diaries of Emily Hulett Sheldon from the early 1930's about farm life on Hewins St. have been given to the Center. We have also received two scrapbooks which belonged to Mildred Roys, and a copy of the diary of Dr. Elisha Cleaveland, a native of Lakeville, CT., which starts in 1852.

We did the research for the fall cemetery walk, and James Miller took 20 students for a cemetery walk at Center Cemetery.

Bernard A. Drew has started to research the history of Blacks in Berkshire County as the result of a grant. We held a reception for him when his book "Spend a Summer in Sheffield & Environs" was published.

The Center has received \$827.50 in donations.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Chapin, Director

Committee: Doreen Atwood, David Prouty, and James Miller, Archivist.

Stone Store

The Gift Shop in the Stone Store continues to flourish. Shopping at the trade show twice a year enables us to offer a variety of tasteful items. The acquisition of three display cabinets allows us to showcase the work of local artisans, and we now have lovely bags in which to place customers' purchases. Thank you for your support, encouragement, and comments.

Respectfully submitted,
Doreen Atwood and Dorothy Marosy

Treasurer's Comments

The annual report of the treasurer will be available after the close of the fiscal year on June 30 and the completion of the audit in August. Preliminary results are reasonably positive. While the Society will end the year with a deficit, it should not be as great as projected as fundraising revenue has increased. In addition, the investment portfolio which is about half of what it was four and a half years ago, principally due to market conditions, has begun to rebound. With prudent management and good stewardship this trend should continue and provide some income from earnings over the years.

Catherine B. Miller

Outreach Committee

The Committee was pleased with the variety of programs at our monthly meetings this year. In September, Joanne and Steve Catsos' presented Black Ash to Basket, a program showing the complete process from the harvesting of the tree to the award-winning baskets produced.

This local couple gave us information on the true American art of weaving baskets.

Ed and Libby Klekowski of UMass gave a video/lecture on "Under the Connecticut". This film, later shown on PBS, gave us a look at the life in the Connecticut River now as well as the signs of the earlier life in the Connecticut Valley.

Chris Coenen, past president of the Society, had prepared a video of the 250th celebration of Sheffield in 1983. His film showed the huge parade, as well as activities of the Society in that period. It brought many fond memories to residents who attended.

The Madrigal Singers of Mt. Everett High School sang winter solstice music for our December meeting. Their fine costumes matched the fine quality of their music.

In January, the popular "What's It?" night featured Milt Barnum, past president, leading us in a learning experience about items brought to the meeting. This program always is a winner - no matter the winter weather.

George Emmons talk on the Indian Burial Cairnes in the area was very well received. Residents of North County as well as many from South County came to hear him.

"The Battle of Bennington and the German Prisoners" talk by Lion Miles was fascinating. Most of the audience was not familiar with the fact that German prisoners from the Revolutionary War were hired out to farmers as workers, including to the Ashley family of Sheffield.

In April, Tom Zetterstrom, founder of

Elm Watch, spoke about the history of the great planting of elms in Sheffield and the newer, disease-resistant elms being planted now. His slide presentation showed early Main Street with the canopy of elms as well as pictures and locations of the great elms still standing.

In May, James Miller spoke about the Sheffield tombstone carvers. On the following Saturday morning, Jim led a tour of two cemeteries to see some of the stones today.

The June meeting was a presentation by our director, Joanne Hurlbut, about our present collection. Emphasis was on the on-going preservation of our textile collection. A recent grant, secured by Ms. Hurlbut, of \$5000 will allow more of the collection to be cared for in the proper storage containers and atmosphere. For the second year, a professional conservator was on site to train volunteers on proper handling and storage of artifacts. The June meeting was held on the grounds of the Dan Raymond House. Those present then visited the space dedicated to the proper storage.

Respectfully submitted, Marion Whiteman, Chr.

Members: Wray Gunn, Rene Wood, Sandra Preston, Joanne Hurlbut.

The President's Report

I believe that we have just survived a critical period in the existence of the Society. We have all pulled together through financial challenges that in the long run will leave us in a strong position for the future.

During the year, we initiated several exciting yearly events that should

bring in higher revenues with each new presentation. Specifically, John-Arthur Miller began his Winter Concert series with the Edison phonograph as the focal point. The Fund Raising Committee began the Pigge Roast dinners with Marcia Brolli guiding the leadership. Beginning this July, Rene Wood and Jim Miller will spearhead the Silent Auction & Tag Sale. These 3 projects should net the organization at least \$10,000.

The Finance Committee continues to give us guidance for the use of the Endowment. We have been advised by that committee of the maximum amount the Society should consider withdrawing from the endowment yearly without terrible consequences. They advised us to pay down the mortgage on the Stone Store because of the higher interest rate and to pay that same monthly amount back each month to the Society's Endowment.

The STONE STORE is our main attraction on the Village Green. The duo of Doreen Atwood and Dorothy Marosy have given time and effort to gathering appealing and salable items for the STORE. During this year, we have had better sales. With the increase in inventory and more varied products, there is an expectancy of greater revenues for next year.

I believe that it was unfortunate that the Society had to reduce the position of the Director from full-time to part-time. However, it was necessary in order to maintain the stability of the Society. The Society is fortunate, however, that Joanne, the present Director, has agreed to stay on and work with the us for the

Historical Society Recipient of Matching Grant

A challenge matching grant to retire the mortgage on the Old Stone Store has been offered to the Sheffield Historical Society by an anonymous Sheffield couple. If successful, the dollar-for-dollar challenge will yield \$24,000, a sum sufficient to retire the indebtedness on the historic structure.

The Old Stone Store was purchased by the Society for the express purpose of preserving it and making it available for a range of community and Society activities and services which have come to include children's educational programs, revolving exhibits, meeting space, and information center. It has seen use extensively by local organizations and the Society for these activities.

Most of the renovation cost of approximately \$250,000 has been raised, leaving a balance of \$24,000 on the mortgage. "This is a very generous gift and we hope people in the community will help the Society achieve the match," said Wray Gunn, president of the Society.

People interested in supporting the effort are invited to send gifts to the Sheffield Historical Society, Box 747, Sheffield, MA 01257, with a notation "Old Stone Store mortgage."

President's Report continued

coming year to test the new arrangement. I believe that once the kinks are ironed out, it will work.

Already, we are looking at a better 2004 - 2005 year. The Society has been offered a matching grant of \$12,000 against any and all donations to the STONE STORE mortgage. I think that this is an excellent incentive for the Society to pull together in promoting fund raising projects and developing new educational programs.

Director's Report

Reading through the pages of this newsletter, it is obvious that the Sheffield Historical Society continues to be a highly active organization. In addition to the many activities already mentioned, I would like to add my thanks for all of those who once again helped with the youth-related programming. Our fall was filled with 5th graders at-

tending programs in Center Cemetery. The February school vacation workshop was filled, making it our most heavily attended workshop to date. Springtime saw a full slate of school groups from several Berkshire County schools.

Our collaborative activities continued apace with programs such as Family Day and the Revolutionary Period tours presented by SHS and The Trustees of Reservations. The Spirit of Freedom in Sheffield, a Martin Luther King Day program, presented by SHS and the Bushnell-Sage Library was both moving and our best attended holiday event to date.

The annual October cemetery program saw a large turnout and some mighty fine acting as well. The spirits were with us on all levels, including the good weather spirit.

Exhibits in the Stone Store provided members and the community with much to think about and appreciate. The topics ranged from Summer to

Winter Memories to the Festival of Tress to Gardening through the Years. The Kiwanis created an anniversary exhibit and local artists have rented the space twice for their own gallery showings. A number of community members have loaned their objects for SHS based exhibits. You have until to June 27 to stop in and see Claire Height's Floral Frogs. SHS was also joined by other historical sites for its Redware exhibition. THANK YOU to all those who have worked with SHS to create these varied, informative, and well-received exhibits.

The upcoming year looks to be a busy one as well. I am hopeful of the continuation of that excellent community support that has made my five years here so enjoyable. My thanks go out to all those other volunteers who perform the many other necessary tasks such as those who help with newsletters, press materials, and sitting the Stone Store.

Look for the July opening of the exhibit *Life Along the River*. See also housatonicriversummer.org for information on other related activities.

THANK YOU!

For the second year now, the Society has conducted an Annual Appeal. Last year's drive ended on a high note, exceeding our expectations. This year's drive is off to a great start! Contributors include:

Ginger Alexander
 John and Emily Alexander
 Sebastian Anselmi
 Walter and Doreen Atwood
 Fred and Betty Bangs
 Ann Barrett
 Trumbull Barrett
 Anne Barstow and
 Tom Driver
 Betty D. Batacchi
 Edward and Linda Bazinet
 Paul Benjou and P. J. Birriel
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bennett
 Richard Bernstein and
 Elisabeth Cary
 in honor of Virginia Drury
 Robin Berthet
 Jean W. Blackmur
 Douglas and Honor Blume
 Lois E. Bradford
 Jim Brandy
 Marcia Brolli
 Richard and Joan Brooks
 Mr. and Mrs. S. Brady Brown
 William and Penny Browne
 Tanya Buckner
 Elizabeth M. Chapin
 Neil and Kathleen Chrisman
 Walter and Ursula Cliff
 Constance E. Cooper
 Mary and James Cooper
 Dorothy Crockett
 Mrs. Jean E. Curtiss
 Dwight and Nancy Dellert
 Barbara E. Delmolino
 Margaret Dessau and
 Robert Wheeler, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Dibrita
 Kerry and Anne Douglas
 John and Audrey Downie
 L. Robert Duffy

Norma J. Edsall and
 Alice R. Corbin
 Bart and Janet Reich Elsbach
 Peter and Patricia Elsbach
 Nancy Emery
 Marcia Fowle
 Jack and Sandy French
 Warner Friedman
 Natalie Funk
 Phil and Betsy Garcia
 Frank and Helen Bray-Garretson
 Rene Gibson
 Ruth A. Gillette
 John and Elsie Gilligan
 Joel Goldstein
 Richard L. Goodwin
 in honor of Mike McGuire
 Leonard Graziano and William Grief
 Martha Greene
 Stephen Greenspan
 Luis Guerrero
 Lovina E. Gulotta
 Wray Gunn and Cora Portnoff
 Nancy M. Hahn
 Joyce and Ross Hawkins
 Claire K. Height
 Gillian and Norman Hettinger
 Dr. James and Donna Hurley
 Keith Hyatt
 Mary and Charles H. Jock, Jr.
 Felecie and Kevin Joyce
 Tom and Bev Kradel
 Thaddeus B. and Maria G. Kubis
 Allison G. Lassoe
 Marc Lavietes and Rose Rosal
 Susan and Philip Lebowitz
 Susan and Robert Ledlie
 Susan B. Levin
 Ann-Marie Light
 Candida Logan
 Susan Lushing
 Ms. Sue Mac Veety
 Toni and Marian Malnati
 Dorothy Marosy
 Barbara Martin
 Dawn and Henry Massini
 Bette and Charlie McNamara
 James and Catherine Miller
 Dan and Anne Moulton
 Patrice Mullin
 C. Twiggs Myers

in memory of Arthur R. Chase
 Katherine Ness and John James
 Paul and Mary Ellen O'Brien
 Kathy Orlando
 Thomas Orlando
 John and Charlotte Owens
 David and Marsha Pottle
 Joseph H. and Carol F. Reich Fund
 Ann M. Riou
 Jessica Roseman
 Susan Rothschild and Don Freedman
 Kate and George W. Rowe
 Peter and Ellen Rowntree
 Michael J. Saxton
 Beala and Stephen Schiffman
 Becky and K.C. Schopp & Family
 Gary Schumer
 Dennis Sears and Rene Wood
 Robert and Ann Shanks
 Myron and Marcie Sheinberg
 Shiels Builders
 Susan Silver
 George T. Smith
 Nikki and Sig Spiegel
 Peter and Tjasa Sprague
 John and Katherine E. Stookey
 Noreene Storrie and
 Wesley G. McCain
 Howard Justus and Hope Swanson
 Thomas and Kathleen Tetro
 Robert M. Thomas, Jr.
 Ronald and Judith Timm
 Irene and John Toffey
 Peter Traub
 Mr. and Mrs. Albert Trocchi
 in memory of Millie Smith
 Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Uffner
 Merle and Karen Varney
 Loet and Edith Velmans
 Diana and Henry Vollmer
 Stacey and Jeffrey Weber
 Jonathan Weinress
 Mary Alice and James Welch
 David and Barbara West
 Elsie D. West
 Roberta Wheeler
 Marion Whitman
 Marilyn and John Wightman
 Evelyn L. and Oliver C. Willcox
 Ruth and William Wuori
 R. Zimmerman and E. Williams

Historical Society receives several grants for special projects.

Scholars in Residence Grant

The Sheffield Historical Society and The Trustees of Reservations have been awarded a collaborative Scholars in Residence grant, a joint award made by the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities and the Bay State Historical League. Bernard Drew, the scholar for this project, will pursue the topic

ORIGINS OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN POPULATION IN SHEFFIELD AND ENVIRONS

SHS and The Trustees will open their archival collections in order to glean information about the African-Americans who lived in Southern Berkshire County. From the stories of Sheffield's Elizabeth Freeman (Mumbet), to Great Barrington's Tom Burghardt and W. E. B. Du Bois, to Stockbridge's Agrippa Hull, the lives of local African-Americans are increasingly coming to the foreground of national studies. Drew will continue the research into these individuals as he seeks to place them in the wider historical context. In addition, he will explore the lives of the many other African-Americans who lived here in the 18th and 19th centuries, but whose stories remain untold. By analyzing the financial, legal, and family records, the everyday lives of this nearly invisible group will be revealed. Areas for study include the issue of sub-cultures and the development of free versus slave sections of the Black community. The study will analyze these groups through the Revolutionary and Civil Wars and through the movement from an agrarian to an industrial economy.

The majority of the \$2,500 grant will be given as compensation to the

scholar for his weeks of research and writing. Drew will present his findings to the public through a talk. He is already hard at work on the project, which has a completion deadline of November. The research findings will also be printed in pamphlet form. Look in future newsletters for additional information. (Take note—This grant was one of only three awarded across the State.)

Preservation Assistance Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

The Society continues its success with Federal grants with its third collections grant award in late 2003. Of the 376 applications submitted from across the country, the NEH selected only 39% as grant recipients. For additional details on the SHS grant see the Collections and Outreach committee annual reports.

Under this year's award of \$5,000, the Society installed modern collections-appropriate metal shelving units in the room on the first floor of the Dan Raymond House that was formerly the shop and before that the borning room exhibit. On Monday, June 14, the Society was again visited by textile conservator Gwen Spicer, who worked with members interested in textile preservation. New systems for storing hats, quilts, and objects such as gloves were put into place. Over the course of the next several months, the hat exhibit will be fully dismantled, catalogued, and stored. Other objects will be

moved from the upstairs rooms into the new textile storage. The upstairs rooms are the hottest rooms in the entire house and the new area will offer a better climate and greater accessibility. Anyone interested in working on any phase of this project should call the office.

Grant awarded for Press Materials from the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Inc.

The Society is creating its first four-color rack card, which will be distributed throughout the county. The card will feature the Society grounds and all its buildings, focusing on touring the Dan Raymond House and shopping in the old Stone Store. It will also include information on all the services offered by the Society.

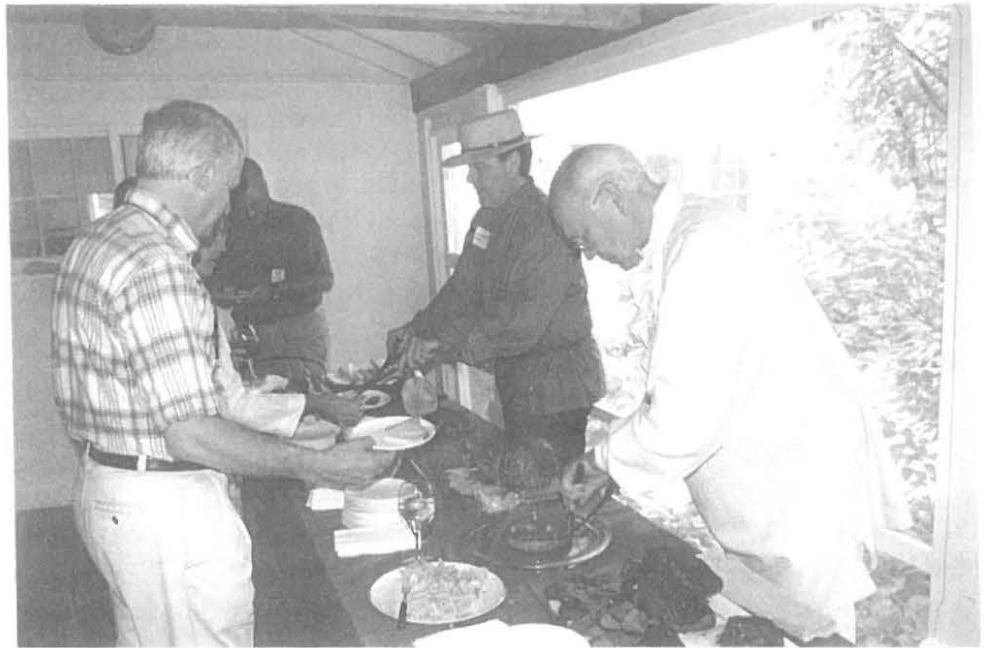
The grant award is for \$1,000, and it was through this same process that the Society obtained its new digital camera. The combination of the camera imagery and the rack card will significantly raise the profile of SHS in the community. Many digital images taken from the camera have already appeared in the local press. Updates will be made to the Society's web page and the camera will figure prominently in documenting our collection.

Thank you to The Sheffield Pottery, which made a \$500 contribution to help underwrite the purchase of the new exhibit/shop glass cases.

LIGHT FARE & FRIVOLITY

Members and friends of the Society spent a leisurely afternoon on May 22 at the home of John and Appy Stookey on the Egremont Road. Their residence, which served as an early 18th century tavern and inn, was the venue for the third annual spring party which this year focused on the role of that institution in the social and cultural life of Sheffield. The event was co-chaired by Barbara Delmolino and Catherine Miller.

Period fare included wild venison sausage and roast supplied and prepared by Barbara, pheasant provided by Doreen and Bud Atwood, plus local turkey, ham, fine breads, ice cream with rhubarb sauce, beer and wine. These fine victuals were enjoyed by about 100 guests as they listened to rousing fiddlin' music by Anson Olds and his guitar accompanist, while they toured the grounds and house.



About 15 Society members helped with preparation, serving and cleanup with Carl Proper, John-Arthur Miller, Bud Atwood, Harry Conklin, Wray Gunn, Dennis Sears and host John Stookey appearing in period costume. They were augmented by help from Dorothy Marosy, Doreen Atwood, Marcia Brolli, Annie Ryder, Joanne Hurlbut along with co-chairs, Barbara and Catherine.

The weather cooperated to make it an unhurried and memorable community event, with people lingering in conversation, amusement and mirth.



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Sheffield, MA 01257

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Email: shs@sheffieldhistory.org

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Stone Store hours are Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and
Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

James & Catherine Miller
PO Box 7
Sheffield, MA 01257

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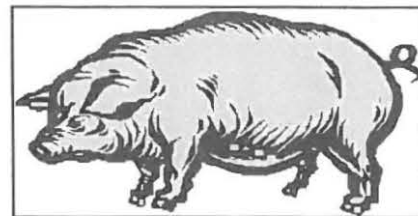
Joanne Hurlbut, *Director*

Pigge Roast Reprise

Scott Ryan and the Pigge Roast are coming to Sheffield on August 28, 2004. The Second annual Pigge Roast will be held at the Sheffield Legion Hall at the corner of Cook Road and Route 7 in Sheffield from 3 - 6 p.m.

At 3 again this year Marion Whiteman and friends will hold a blueberry pie taste-off to find the best pie-baker in the area. At 3:45 serving will begin. On the menu are pork or fried turkey and all the fixings, baked beans, salads, corn-on-the-cob, and blueberry pie.

Adults \$15, children \$8, children under 8 free. Adult take-outs available.



CRAFTS: Barbara Delmolino has brought together a group of crafts people who will be exhibiting and selling all day on the grounds of the Legion Hall.

Come early to shop at the crafts booths and stay for the fun of the pie contest and then eat a delicious meal.

Save these dates:

July 3—River Exhibit Opens

July 10—Silent Auction and
Tag Sale

August 28—Pigge Roast



Sheffield Historical Society

Fall 2005 Newsletter

New Exhibition: SHEFFIELD SEATING FURNITURE

The examples in this exhibit represent only a few of the types of seating that were used in Sheffield from its settlement in the 1720s down to the end of the 19th century. Among the earliest and most primitive seating was the slab bench – which was an enlarged domestic version of the dairyman's three-legged milking stool, such as the diminutive stool from the Barnum family, on display. Chairs were a symbol of dignity and authority – not an item in general use – in early Sheffield. However, as wealth and sophistication advanced, the once ubiquitous bench was replaced by more fashionable seating styles, such as Sheraton and Windsor chairs, particularly in the 19th century.

This exhibit includes several pieces made in Sheffield or nearby South County. Other examples, while not made here, were used in Sheffield by successive generations of local families (Chapin, Willcox/Cande, Curtiss) – in some cases remaining



in the family for as long as 200 years.

For the most part, local chair makers were farmers who turned to nonagricultural endeavors in the off-season, when they built seating furniture for their families or for trade or sale. The Baldwin Company chairs in the exhibit, however, are true Berkshire County production pieces, made in large numbers in a factory setting.

Thus this small exhibit presents an authentic slice of Sheffield's furniture history—items made and/or used right here in Sheffield.

—James R. Miller

Riddle: when is a chair not a chair? Clue: did you note any similarities between the image on your left and the image on your right? Look again! (Answer: when it's a cradle.) It's the same piece of furniture in two different positions.

Hours: The exhibition opens on Saturday, August 27, and runs through Sunday, October 30. Regular exhibition hours are Saturdays 10 to 2, and Sundays 11 to 3.

Special Sheffield in Celebration Day activities, Saturday, September 10, include extended Stone Store hours (3 to 7 p.m.) and:

Exhibition curator James Miller will give short talks on the elements that went in to designing and creating *SHEFFIELD SEATING FURNITURE*. The talks will be offered at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.



Throughout the day's activities (3 to 7 p.m.), craftsman Boyd Hutchison will demonstrate techniques used in chair construction, in particular techniques used in the creation of Windsor chairs, which were popular from the late 18th century into the early 19th century.

Calendar of Events

Monthly Meeting

THE STORY OF THE ASHLEY FALLS MILL

Friday, September 9

**NOTE CHANGE OF TIME AND
LOCATION**

This is a special meeting comprised of both a tour and a presentation. Feel free to come for both segments or for just one segment. **Meet at 7 p.m. to tour the Ashley Falls Mill and view the waterpower site and remaining mechanicals.** There will be displays of related memorabilia and photos. The tour includes the first floor and basement. (Call for directions to the Mill.)

Meet at 8 p.m. at the nearby Trinity Methodist Church Parish Hall for a panel discussion of the Mill and its operations.

Speakers on the panel include Fred Hall, a 98-year-old local historian, relating stories from his experiences in the mill; Jim Miller, author of *Early Life in Sheffield, Berkshire County* speaking to the historical significance of this site as the industrial center of the first settlement in the county; Amy Fish, retelling the stories from her mother, who was the last to run the mill as a business; and Howard Chezar, the current owner, as he talks of what the future brings. The panel facilitator will be Neal Chamberlain.

WORK BEE

Saturday, September 17, 10 a.m.
to approximately noon.

(Rain date--Saturday, September 24)

Meet at the Dan Raymond House.

There will be a number of projects to do, and all ages and skill levels are welcome. Painting will figure heavily among the tasks, but there will be many other projects to work on. Call the office to let us know you will be attending.

ARCHITECTURAL WALK- ING TOUR, Saturday, October 1, 10:00 a.m.

This is a part of the Heritage Walks Weekend.

The Sheffield Historical Society is offering a tour of the center of Sheffield, focusing on its 18th and 19th century homes and businesses. Hear the stories of the men, women, and children who resided in these structures. Learn about the special features that make each building a key to understanding the past. When the tour was offered earlier this summer, it was fully subscribed. If you missed it then, plan to join us now. Call (413) 229-2694 to reserve a place. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended. The walk begins at the Society's Dan Raymond House headquarters, 159 Main Street (Route 7), Sheffield. Approximately 1 hour, ½ mile.

Monthly Meeting SAMUEL HOPKINS, MAN FROM YALE

**Friday, October 14, 7:30 p.m. at
the Bushnell-Sage Memorial Li-
brary**

NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION

The Reverend Samuel Hopkins was the first settled pastor of the Sheffield North congregation, later called the First Congrega-

tional Church of Great Barrington. He was a disciple of Jonathan Edwards, one of the leading preachers of the 18th-century's Great Awakening. Hopkins was also one of the country's early abolitionists. The presentation of these historical moments and many other personal aspects of the life and times of Samuel Hopkins will be given by Reverend Charles Van Ausdall, pastor of the First Congregational Church in Great Barrington since 1986.

ANNUAL CEMETERY STROLL

**Saturday, October 22,
4 to 6 p.m.**

**Hewins Cemetery (from Route
7 in Sheffield, take Maple Ave-
nue, turn right onto Hewins
Street and drive 2.5 miles)**



This year's journey takes us to a smaller cemetery, away from the bustle of the center of town. Here we will encounter personal stories often left untold. There will be members of the Hewins family present, along with many others such as Lieutenant Theophilus Spaulding and Jabez Keep. Get to know Sheffield's ancestors at this historically entertaining event. Please dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes; the terrain is uneven. Refreshments will be provided. Free to members, \$4 non-members.



Look what's right around the corner—plan to be a part of one of our most successful activities!

The 7th Annual Festival of Trees

will be held again in the Stone Store on the Green in Sheffield for the four weekends of November. Saturday hours are 10-3; Sunday hours 11-2.

Festive miniature trees, holiday decorations, and sweets will be for sale throughout the month. These are the perfect gift for someone in a small apartment. Festival of Trees committee members encourage people to think of shut-ins, both family members and friends, who have little room for holiday decorations, and spark their holidays with the gift of a unique miniature tree.

New designers are eager to delight prospective buyers with beautifully crafted miniature trees. They will try to match the wit and beauty of the work of past contributors.

Raffles will be held for several items, including another handsome holiday quilt hanging created by Society member Doreen Atwood.

As always, **fresh green wreaths** will be decorated to order for delivery at the beginning of December. Origami light strings and ornaments, so popular last year, made by Society members will be available while they last. Gift packages of holiday sweets may be ordered or purchased throughout the festival.

In response to requests, **this year's hand-painted ornament of a Sheffield landmark, Center School**, and a limited number of the series from past years will be for sale. These beautiful glass balls, hand-painted in Austria, have become highly prized by local collectors. Ensure that you get yours by mailing full payment of \$21, tax included, to the Sheffield Historical Society. Ornaments may be picked up during the Festival of Trees open hours.

The Stone Store gift shop has expanded its offerings this year and will repeat its highly successful upstairs **holiday tag sale**.

Come get in the mood for the holidays—and shop for decorations and gifts and an early taste of holiday treats. For more information, call the Society at 413-229-2694 or Marcia Brolli at 229-2624.

Monthly Meeting A CONCERT BY "THE CARD SHARKS"

**Friday, November 11, 7:30 p.m.
at Dewey Memorial Hall
NOTE LOCATION**

Join us for an evening of American music to celebrate Veteran's Day, with the barbershop quartet known as The Card Sharks. This group performs in four-part harmony, a style that has made them New England's favorite sons. Composed of area residents, the group has been winning awards for some time. They took second place in the Northeast Region four-part barbershop competition. Come and sing along.

Don't Forget to contact us at 229-2694 regarding your contributions to the December heirloom exhibition. We truly need your pieces to make this a worthwhile exhibition.

We are looking for any item that has been handed down from generation to generation, and which is very special to you. December is a month where sharing family memories is a major part of the reason for celebrating. So join our historical family by lending us an item or two and telling us the tale behind the object. We welcome all types of items and stories.

The Society is one of the sponsors for:
**UPPER HOUSATONIC VALLEY
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE
TRAIL**, *A project of the Upper
Housatonic Valley Heritage Area*

The Upper Housatonic Valley African American Trail will hold a series of community meetings to introduce and receive comment on its newly published guide to the *African American Heritage in the Upper Housatonic Valley*. The guide brings together the efforts over many years by local scholars, historians, educators and community leaders to preserve the region's rich African American heritage.

On Monday Sept 12, 7:00 p.m., at the Clinton African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, 9 Elm Court, Great Barrington, project members will discuss the making of the guide and the story of African Americans in South Berkshire County. The panel will include Rev. Esther Dozier, David Levinson, Bernard Drew, Elaine Gunn, Wray Gunn and Rachel Fletcher.

For information about the African American Heritage Guide, contact Rachel Fletcher, 413-528-3391, afam-trail@hotmail.com, or visit the website at www.uhvafamtrail.org



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Open

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Fall Automobile Outing to Hill-Stead Wednesday, October 19, 9:30 a.m.

Meet at the Dan Raymond House

Travel back with us to 1901 and the creation of one of the country's finest examples of Colonial Revival domestic architecture, known as Hill-Stead. This 36-room house sits on 152 acres of fields and woodlands in Farmington, CT, near Hartford. The structure was designed as a retirement home for the parents of Theodate Pope Riddle, who was one of Connecticut's first licensed female architects.

The house is furnished with her father's collection of French Impressionist paintings, particularly Monet and Degas, Japanese prints, and works by Durer and Whistler.

Theodate was a survivor of the submarine attack on the *Lusitania*. At the age of 49, she married the American diplomat John Riddle. Theodate Riddle died in 1949, leaving a will that stated nothing should be removed or added to the house; thus it stands exactly as it did when her family lived there (1901-1946).

Fee: \$15 members, \$17 non-members. Lunch (a separate cost) will follow the tour at a place TBA. Reservations requested.

September 10—Special Chair Exhibit
programming

September 17—Work Bee

October 22—Cemetery Stroll



Sheffield Historical Society

Winter 2005 Newsletter

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Festival of Trees runs now through November 27. See page 3 for further details.



Don't forget!

The **CHORD SHARKS**, an award-winning male quartet from the Southern Berkshires, will present the program for the Sheffield Historical Society's **November meeting on Veterans Day, Friday, November 11 at Dewey Memorial Hall** in Sheffield.

Members of the quartet include Maurice Brazie, Ray Johnson, Jack Mann, and Dan Burkhardt. For the second year in a row the group placed second in the Northeast District Contest. This year's event was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The **7:30 p.m. program** will include some of the music from the Northeast contest as well as spirituals and patriotic American music.

From Saturday, December 3, through Sunday, December 18, the exhibition *Heirloom Stories* will be on view at the Old Stone Store. Hours are Saturdays from 10 to 2, Sundays from 11 to 3, and by appointment.

There is still time to join us in putting this exhibition together! We are looking for any item that has been handed down from generation to generation, and which is very special to you. We welcome all types of items and stories. Please contact the Society at (413) 229-2694 by November 19th, if you have an item or items to share.

Monthly Meeting
Friday, December 9, 7:30 p.m.
Dewey Memorial Hall
Robert Law will present a program on *Fifty Years of The Southern Berkshire Regional School District*.

2006

Monthly Meeting
Friday, January 13, 7:30 p.m.
Dewey Memorial Hall
What's It Night: the perennial favorite of members and friends.

Special Event
Monday, January 16, 1 p.m.
Bushnell-Sage Library
For several years the Society has worked with the Library to present a special program honoring *Martin Luther King, Jr. and local heroes*. We have enjoyed songs, readings, presentations, and more. Join us for an event that always lifts the spirit.

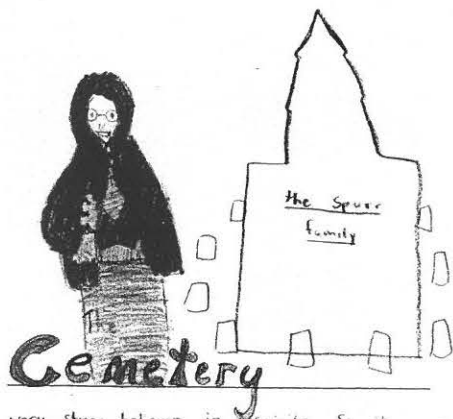
Monthly Meeting
Friday, February 10, 7:30 p.m.
Dewey Memorial Hall
Ivan Newton will speak about *Rev. Harrison*, an early civil rights leader, Civil War chaplain, and prominent Pittsfield figure. A drive is underway to turn his Pittsfield home into a museum.

A February School Vacation Workshop is in the planning stages. Call the office in January if you are interested in enrolling a youngster. These workshops fill up fast, so make a reservation early!

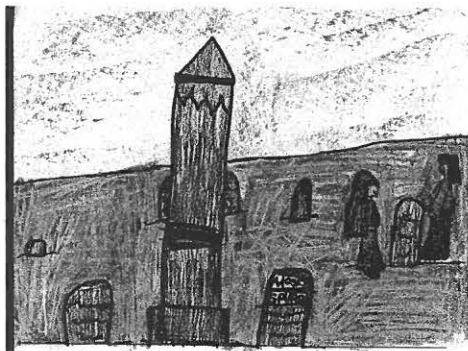


Monthly Meeting
Friday, March 10, 7:30 p.m.
Location to be announced
Dr. Brian Burke, of Fairview Hospital, will tell the story of *Dr. Whiting, Berkshire's forgotten leader of the Revolutionary Era*. The talk will focus on early medicine in this area. Dr. Burke is President of the Great Barrington Historical Society, and advisory member of the African American Heritage Trail Committee.

Recent Happenings at the Society



Once again this October, the spirits of Sheffield have been afoot. Pictured above is Mrs. Moses Spurr; drawn by Zoe, one of our 5th-grade students. Below is Kelsey's version of the Spurr pie. Each year the students visit with SHS staff and volunteers at Center Cemetery, where they learn about grave sites and their architecture. They also hear the stories of life long ago as told by local residents.



Our other traditional family cemetery program, scheduled for October 22, was postponed due to inclement weather. It was rescheduled for Sunday, November 6, 4-6 p.m. If weather is problematic, the event will be held in the Society buildings. We are never ones to let a good story go without being told!

Building and Grounds Updates

The Society held two Work Bees in September. Each day saw a solid turnout of workers and successful strides in upkeep activities. Basic chores, such as cleaning gutters and trimming tree limbs away from buildings were completed, as was some interior cleaning.

In addition, two significant work projects were finished. The exterior project was the Barn: Work was done on the large front door, which included replacing deteriorated wood, scraping, and painting. Painting of the back addition on the Barn was also completed.

The interior work took place in the Dan Raymond House, on the second floor: The room used for changing exhibits had suffered water damage to the ceiling as a result of the leaking roof. With the new roof in place, local high school students and their instructor came in the spring and worked on repairing the ceiling. During the last Work Bee, volunteers painted both the ceiling and the walls. The space will house a new exhibition in the Spring of 2006.

As I sit here at my keyboard, I feel something creeping about the room. It is in fact a wonderful thing—heat! The Dan Raymond House (where my office is located) was in need of a new furnace system. For the last four days, the heat has been off as the old system was dismantled and the

new system installed.

The two old boilers and the two old tanks were replaced by one boiler and one tank. The new system is far more efficient and will give great service. In addition, the technician working on the project notes that the smaller system makes the basement much more spacious!

The installation of the furnace system was made possible through a number of volunteer efforts. In particular, Kim Kimball was able to reduce an \$8,103.56 cost to an actual \$2,175 fee for the Society. This was done through the generosity of Burnham (the makers of the boiler), S & A Supply, and Kimball Fuel. In addition, \$500 from the recent Massachusetts Cultural Council GOS grant (see back cover for details) will be applied to the cost, leaving only \$1,675 out-of-pocket expenses for the Society. That is a remarkable effort by the community to work with the Society to preserve the history of the area; keep in mind that a large percentage of the Society's collection is housed in the Dan Raymond House.

Have you noticed the front windows of the Old Stone Store seem different somehow? An ultraviolet film was added to protect objects on display from damage caused by sunlight.

THANK YOU to all those involved in working to maintain the Society's holdings!

7th Annual
**Festival of
Trees
2005**

**Fudge
&
Cookies**

November weekends

**Saturday, 10-3
Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26**

**Sunday, 11-3
Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27**

Stone Store
New holiday gifts
Upstairs Tag Sale

Ornaments
Origami light strings
Fresh wreaths
Hand-painted ball— Center School

Raffles: lap quilt created by Doreen Atwood,
Old Mill gift certificate, decorated wreath

Miniature Trees decorated by members &
friends of the Sheffield Historical Society

Miniature trees make
great gifts for shut-ins!

Call SHS at 229-2694

Lots of perfect stocking
stuffers in the Shop!



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Closed December 24, 2005 through March 31, 2006.

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Allison G. Lasso

Brian Levinsohn

Joanne Hurlbut, *Director*

Sheffield Historical Society Receives a Massachusetts Cultural Council GOS Grant

For the first time, the Society is the recipient of a General Operating Support Grant from the MCC. The award is for \$2,000 per year, for a total of three consecutive years.

These state grants are awarded through a competitive process. Receiving a MCC GOS grant signifies that the Sheffield Historical Society provides a high level of quality in its programs, community service and administrative capacity.

The mission of the MCC is to promote excellence, education, access, and diversity in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sci-

ences in order to improve the quality of life for all Massachusetts residents and to contribute to the economic vitality of our communities.

The Society will use a portion of the funding for the new furnace and will apply the remaining funds towards its varied programming.



MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL

Festival of Trees—
Every weekend in November
Saturdays 10-3
Sundays 11-3