



Sheffield Historical Society

Winter 2006 Newsletter

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends of SHS,

The Upper Housatonic Valley African American Heritage Trail celebration in September was a major event in Berkshire historical recognition. The SHS joined with the UHVAHT committee and The Trustees of Reservations to create a weekend of events: a seminar at MCLA under the leadership of Dr. Frances Jones-Sneed; 3 full busses touring African American sites with 3 different foci; and a symposium focusing on adapting historical emphasis to include African American citizens, held at Old Parish under the leadership of Dr. Joanne Hurlbut, Director, SHS. The day concluded at The Ashley House with the Trustees of Reservations naming the Freeman Room—a first honor for an African American citizen in Berkshire County.

The well-received exhibit at the Stone Store on the same theme, "If They Close the Door on You, Go in a Window" based on Bernie Drew's book written under the aegis of SHS 2 years ago, closed at the end of October.

Our current celebration of African American contributions to the Berkshires concludes at the No-

vember meeting with Roselle Chartock's talk about her trip to Ghana to trace the journey of W.E.B. Dubois "From Birthplace to Burial Site," a talk with slides (Nov. 10, at Dewey Memorial Hall, 7:30 pm). *Sponsored jointly by the Sheffield Historical Society and the Great Barrington Historical Society.*

Festival of Trees: *Holiday Comes Early for Festival of Trees*

Many of the members and friends of the Society are creating trees, wreaths, mantel decorations, and centerpieces for your purchase at the Festival of Trees.

Successfully getting miniature trees on the Stone Store tables by November 11 takes foresight and planning. Pinecones and milkweed pods need to be collected and dried; paint spraying has to be done outdoors while the temperature is above 50 degrees; finding the supplies squirreled away last year requires a working memory.

Then one's work space needs to be set up with wire and clippers, glue gun, scissors, ribbons,

thread, and raffia, pots, dowels—and finally each of us makes a trip to the kitchen of the Dan Raymond House, where Jim has set out the trees, wreaths, and lights. Some people, like Doreen Atwood, who annually creates a quilted piece for the raffle, completed their offerings ages ago, but the rest of us are bustling.

In addition to the festive decorations, there will be holiday cookies and candies to delight young and old, as well as other goodies for your holiday table.

For the collectors among you, the hand-painted ornament of the Sheffield Elm is "the best ever." These will certainly be gone before December, so stop by right away or call in your order (229-2694).

Fresh balsam wreaths with magnificent bows will be available in December.

The Festival of Trees is both an important fundraisers for the Society and a fun time. **Join us!**

Thank you all for your continued support and good will.

See you in Sheffield,

— Marcia Brolli



(The Festival of Trees committee: Jim Miller, Rene Wood, Catherine Miller, Lois Levinsohn, Brian Levinsohn, Marcia Brolli, Doreen Atwood, Dorothy Marosy, and Barbara Delmolino.)

Holiday Specials from the Stone Store Shop

A new collection of reproduction redware, made of Sheffield clay by Stephen Earp of Shelburne Falls. This pottery is of finest quality and may be used in the oven.

A new selection of hand-woven pieces, made in Pennsylvania by Family Heirloom Weavers. The goods are woven on antique looms and blend with all design styles. Most are machine washable.

And the Shop continues to offer fine baskets, Shaker boxes, glass jewelry, hand-made brooms, penny rugs, and canvas floor-cloths—all made by local crafts-people.

The very popular **Upstairs Holiday Tag Sale** will be running throughout the Festival of Trees.

Stone Store hours: Saturdays from 10 to 3 and Sundays from 11 to 3 from the opening, November 11, into December. The Store will be open on the Friday after Thanksgiving (Nov. 24, from 10 until 3).

SHS RECIPIENT OF DAY LOGS

The Mark Dewey Research Center, the archival branch of the Society's collection, has acquired a significant group of 25 agricultural day logs dating from 1928 to 1951. They were kept by the late Gertrude "Trudie" Huggins LeGeyt and were a gift from her family.

The LeGeys are a local farming family, and the importance of the logs lies in their insightful glimpses into the pulse of day-to-day life on a Sheffield farm from just before the Great Depression to the end of World War II and beyond. This was a time when agriculture was still the dominant theme in town life, responsible for most of its employment and income. Today their 1,000-acre property, Toby Hill Farm, is run by a fourth-generation LeGeyt.

An early entry, the spring of 1928, says a lot about the local labor market for that pre-Depression period. It reads, "Homer Fuller commenced work . . . at \$20.00 per month with board, room, etc. and with the understanding that if he stays 1 year he is to have bonus to make 300.00." Twenty dollars a month was not much of a wage and, interestingly, the "understanding" of a possible bonus was taken on faith alone, something not seen today.

An entirely unexpected aspect of the LeGeyt family life was its geographic mobility as attested by Trudie's account of Sunday, May 20, 1933. It reads "After dinner, Mother, Jean, Edwin & I went to Under Mt. road up through S. Egremont to G. B. & over 3 mile hill to Mill River to call on Ada & Fred . . . Came back over Brush Hill & stopped at Chas. . . Went over to Doncaster place & . . . met Chas & family but did not stop. Stopped at Wests a few minutes. [Later] F. decided to go to Hillsdale. So we all went there."

What came to be known as the

Hurricane of 1938 was noted on Wednesday, September 21. "Raining. Gave up all idea of Springfield fair . . . most awful rain & wind we ever saw in late p.m. Got all stock in. Trees blown down—telephone out & flood conditions all over New Eng. . . . Worst flood ever & still rising."

The family dates locally from 1919, when Frank LeGeyt purchased the farm. It was later run by Frank's son Edwin and his wife Trudie, and then by Richard LeGeyt and his wife Betty, and now by their son Philip, making for four generations of family ownership.

Trudie's paternal line, Huggins, dates in Sheffield at least from 1756, when Joseph Huggins Sr. was married locally to Sarah Fox. But the Society's family history files trace it back to immigrant John Huggins, born in England in 1609, and his wife, Bridget Green. Although the Huggins name has disappeared locally, some of the descendant families still in the area are Armstrong, Bennett, Cartinelli, Chapin, Conklin, Clark, Crine, Eichstedt, Gaylord, Markham, Smith, Stanton, and, of course, LeGeyt.

Thanks to the LeGeyt family, the 25 day logs are now part of the archival collection of the Society and are available for public use. They make a rich addition to the source material on the day-to-day life of Sheffield's past and we are grateful to the family for their thoughtfulness.

—James R. Miller



Norman Hettinger as Nicholas Van Deusen



Spirits from our annual Cemetery Stroll held in Sackett Cemetery in Ashley Falls on a very blustery day!

Above: Jean Emberlin as Sarah Esther Austin Pease



Dennis Picard as Dr. John Scoville

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

A-1 Security for fully underwriting the cost, both the equipment and the installation fees, of new fire and security systems in the Mark Dewey Research Center and the Dan Raymond House.

To **Wray Gunn and Pfizer** for underwriting the cost of purchasing 25 copies of the new book *African American Heritage: In the Upper Housatonic Valley*. The items were sold at full value in the Stone Store, thereby raising funds for SHS, and all but one copy has been sold to date.

The Massachusetts Cultural Council award for the Sheffield Historical Society for 2006-2007 has been increased by \$500, to \$2,500 for this year. The extra funds will allow the SHS Director to attend all three days of the New England Museum Association's Annual Conference in mid-November in Connecticut.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly Meetings are held on the second Friday of every month, September through June, at Dewey Memorial Hall. They begin at 7:30 pm.

Each monthly program focuses on a different speaker and theme. Check your local newspapers and the Society's website at SHEFFIELDHISTORY.ORG for the most up-to-date listings.

NEW CHILDREN'S EVENT:



This collaborative program presented by the Society and the Bushnell-Sage Library will take place on Tuesday, February 6, 2007, at the Library. (A half-day school program, starting at 12:30 pm.)

Youngsters will be set on the trail of a mystery involving some aspect of a local child's life. They may be searching for when or where a child lived, or where that child went to school. Along the sleuths' journey, they will be given clues to unravel the mystery. The clues will come in the form of historic photographs, maps, and artifacts to view. A special historic spirit or two will be on hand to provide personal information about the children. By answering a series of riddles, the young sleuths will learn where the next clue is to be found.

The event will be intriguing and fun, and based on research from the archives of the Sheffield Historical Society. To register, call the Library at 229-7004.



159 Main Street
PO Box 747
Sheffield, MA 01257

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

The 1774 Dan Raymond House hours: by appointment during the winter months.

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

Old Stone Store hours are Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed January through March.

WE'RE ON THE WEB
SHEFFIELDHISTORY.ORG

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The Freedom of Baseball



Freedom can be found in a wide array of circumstances and times. Do you realize how liberating sports have been for men and women? In particular, baseball has proven a stepping-stone for thousands of people since its development in the mid-1800s. Have you heard about the African American baseball teams the Albany Bachelors or the Sheffield Feathertales?

On **January 15**—the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday—the Bushnell-Sage Library and the Sheffield Historical Society invite you to join us as we explore **"The Freedom of Baseball."** This Family Program, full of

surprises, begins at the Library at **1 p.m.** Bring your whole family, dress appropriately if you like, and bring along your favorite baseball memorabilia to share with others. The program is free and open to the public.



On view in the Stone Store:
The Festival of Trees—

History Mystery—
Tuesday, February 6, 2007
A half-day school program



Sheffield Historical Society

Spring 2007 Newsletter

The Freedom of Baseball



Close to fifty people attended this year's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day collaborative program, an annual event presented by the Society and the Bushnell Sage Library. For those who missed it, it was a great program and one filled with local reminiscences of the game, including how race played a factor even in our national pastime. One of the many stories heard that day was the following account written by Wray Gunn, who could not be at the event. It is such a poignant story that it bears retelling.

WHAT IF ?????

Life works in mysterious ways. Have you stopped and wondered to yourself, "What if I had done this instead of that?" I have on many occasions. The one that really sticks in my mind is related in the following story.

In the late summer of 1948, my two brothers and I were very much interested in attending a baseball tryout training camp. This was my senior year of high school at Williams High School in Stockbridge, Mass., and my two brothers, David and Saint Clair, had already graduated from school—David from Lee

High in 1944 and St. Clair from Williams in 1946. As I look back, David and Saint (as we called him) were very good athletes and I was always the baby playing in their shadows. They were both very aggressive and did not give in to opponents, no matter who or what the situation was. This was not my style.

In June of that year, David found out that the Saint Louis Browns major league team was to hold a tryout in Port Henry, New York, the week-end of Aug. 3rd through the 6th. We were excited and decided we would go to the tryouts. There were some problems with making this decision, such as how much money would we need, where would we stay, and how would we get there, all minor problems. We did not have much money and we didn't know anyone in that area, but we did have Saint's old Buick convertible. So let's do it, we decided!

Of course Ma and Dad thought we were out of our minds, but they realized what it meant to David and Saint. I was just going along for the ride. We had enough money for gas (around .25¢ per gal.) and we had about \$40.00 among the three of us. For

some unknown reason, I had the most money. I was working as an apprentice at GE in Pittsfield as a spot welder. This was a job where I welded the glass bushings onto the capacity tanks. I was paid by the piece and I did very well.

We got our equipment together, gloves, bats, and mismatched uniforms and off we went. Ma was thoughtful enough to pack us a very nice basket of food to munch on during off-hours.

We arrived at Port Henry on the same day that the camp began. Since we had not pre-registered, we parked our red bomber and did the necessary things to sign up. Thank goodness that we did not have to pay a fee.

We were the only Blacks present at this camp. With this in mind, we were now determined to stay on our toes and do the absolute best that we could.

The tryouts were carried out in a precise manner. Players lined up in the positions that they were interested in and the instructors would then give you a steady workout at that position by hitting balls to you for about 5 to 10 minutes steadily. I was an infielder and tried out for second base and short-stop. David was an outfielder,

and Saint was all-around, being a catcher, pitcher, infielder, and outfielder.

On that first day, it was hot and dry. It had not rained in weeks. The field was hard and powdery. The balls really came at you. First to your left, then to your right, over your head and short ones. You did not know where the instructor would hit them next. David hurt his arm on the first day and he had to curtail his activities for the rest of our stay. Saint was the clown and was doing everything well. I thought that he excelled in just throwing the ball, with the strongest arm of the three of us. David was the longest hitter, but Saint and I were able to get on base more and were very good at stealing bases.

The first day went well and we mixed in well with the other candidates, though we spent the night in the car with the top up. By now, the big lunch that Ma had put up for us was gone and we had to figure out how to survive through til Sunday night. Sunday night was the big game in which the most promising players would play. We were happy to learn that Saint and I had survived the first cut of the first day. On the second day, since Saint and I were now

one of the selected few, food was brought in to the remaining candidates. What a relief for all three of us.

Saturday, the second day, was the final cutting day. Saint dropped catching and pitching and stayed with the infield and the outfield. I stayed with the infield. They worked you from fifteen to twenty minutes at a stretch. This was easy for me but tough on Saint, going from the infield to the outfield. He did well in the infield but faltered in the outfield with many of his throws.

I was determined to stay on my game and try not to overdo. I ran in, out, back, to my left, to my right, and dove for short balls, catching them before they hit the ground and then whipping them over to the correct base. This routine was carried out over and over, covering a span of about three hours for our infield group.

But in the early afternoon, just before the end of the sessions came, I began to feel dizzy and nauseous. I saw double; then passed out from dehydration. I woke up in the locker room in a cold sweat with blankets on me to keep me from shivering so much. I felt terrible and dejected for I just knew then that I would be cut from the Sunday line-up, which would be posted in the

morning. My brother Saint and I both had a sleepless night waiting for the morning.

Sunday was again a beautiful day---hot, humid, and cloudless. We heard that the lineups had been posted. Saint and I had a feeling of dread. Would we, the Black kids, be selected to play that night? We were not going to give up hope. Let's go see. And we did.

As we approached the bulletin board, there were all of the candidates milling around trying to look at the board. Some were elated and some were dejected. How would we be? We got to the board and searched to see which list had our names. At first we did not see them, but finally we found both of our names listed to start the game that night.

WOW! CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT. BOTH OF US FROM THAT SMALL TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE MADE IT.

We were excited and elated. We had made it and showed our talent. We had survived the torturous workouts and held our own against a group of talented young baseball players. We felt good.

Practice that day was different as we prepared for the game that night. We

now changed to more hitting and practice at the position you would be playing that night. I was put in at second base and Saint was in at shortstop. It was a night game. We had never played at night before so we were a bit skeptical about how we would fare.

Game time arrived. Uniforms were issued along with new caps. Boy, we were now set.

Just before game time, I was called aside by the chief talent scout. I had no idea what he wanted. So we went into his office. There, he had me sit down and told me that he had an offer to make to me. WOW. To me???? I was speechless. What was the offer? He offered me a contract to play on a Class "D" team in the St. Louis Browns organization. I was flabbergasted. I called my mother and told her, and she and Dad were also excited. But she also said, "I would rather you go to College and get a degree and then think about this." So it was my choice to make a decision.

What should I do? I told David and Saint. I was surprised that Saint had not been extended an offer, as was he. What should I tell him? Saint said, "Let's play the game and then you can give him an answer." We

played the game under lights. It went well. Saint had one assist and one put-out. I had two assists but missed a towering fly ball in the short outfield in the lights. Saint had a single that he stretched into a double and I had a single and a stolen base. We both played well against excellent talent.

After the game, I went over the proposal in my head. I thought about the ordeal that Jackie Robinson had just gone through and I thought about being on a Class "D" team. Then my mother's words came back to me. Which was more important, playing baseball or getting an education? I chose to get the education and my thoughts of being a great baseball player were put on hold, but another chance never came.

And now, almost sixty years later, I go to major league ballgames and wonder---WHAT IF. I look at the stats of major league players and wonder----WHAT IF. ---WHAT IF.----

WANTED: half-pint and pint mason or ball jars in good condition. These are to be used by the Society for various preserves, jams, jellies, pickles, pepper jelly, etc. to be sold at the Stone Store. Please call 229-8668 (Catherine) or 229-0375 (Lois) for more information or pickup.

NEW SERVICE FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS AT THE MARK DEWEY RE-SEARCH CENTER

Advanced genealogy research is now available online through the Mark Dewey Research Center.

The MDRC, the library arm of the Society, has subscribed to extensive nationwide databases that are specifically designed for genealogy. Free to members and friends, trained volunteers are available to assist you in your work.

Conveniently, the timing of this new service parallels the installation of DSL (fast internet service) that is presently underway courtesy of Society member, treasurer, and volunteer, Dennis Sears.

The Center is open both Friday and Monday from 1:30 to 4:00 and is staffed by volunteers Betty Chapin, David Prouty, and Jim Miller. Since we have only one terminal, an appointment is suggested by calling Jim at 229-8668 or by e-mail at MDRC@Sheffieldhistory.org. Appointments made by e-mail will be confirmed. If you come, bring with you as much family history documentation as possible, most importantly names, dates and places of birth, marriage, and death.

THANKS to all those who have given to the 2006 Annual Appeal over the last year.

*John and Emily Alexander
Karin and Allen Altman
Doreen and Walter Atwood
Mary King Austin
Mark E. Bachetti
Betty and Fred Bangs
Ann-Elizabeth Barnes
Ann Barrett
Trumbull Barrett
Anne Barstow and Tom Driver
in memory of Ellie Gilligan
Beth Bartholomew
Arthur J. and Betty Batacchi
Paul Benjou and
P.J. Bradley
Blanche and Bill Bennett
Berkshire Choral Festival
Robin Berthet Construction
Jean W. Blackmur in memory
of Roger and Virginia Drury
Lois E. Bradford in memory of
William Bradford
James Brandi
Lois and Lawrence J. Brandt
Marcia Brolli in memory of
Ed Brolli
Joan Brooks
Grace Wallace Brown
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George H. Caul
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Consolini
Sally Cook*

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Howard Crockett
Eleanore J. Curtiss
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Dwight and Nancy Dellert
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William and Dorothy DeVoti in
honor of Milton Barnum
Elaine A. Dibrita
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Frank and Helen Bray Garretson
Rene Gibson
Ruth Gillette
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William A. and Maryanne G.
Gillooly
Frederic Gordon
Joy W. Gottlieb
Leonard Graziano and
William Grief
Ann L. Green
Paul and Martha Greene
Richard Greene
Edmund A. Grossman
Lovina E. Gulotta, in memory of
Santi J. Gulotta
Wray Gunn and Cora Portnoff
Nancy Wilde Hahn
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Catherine McNeil and
Mylan Jaixen
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James R. and Catherine B. Miller
John-Arthur and Trudy Miller
Margaret Mitchell
Donald S. Mott
Daniel and Anne Moulton
Norma Moulton
Patrice Mullin
C. Twiggs Myers in memory of
Art Chase
Leslie A. Naughton and
Jeffrey W. Rubin
Katherine Ness and John James
Tessie and Joseph Newmark
Rich and Laraine Novak
Mary Ellen O'Brien
Elizabeth O'Connor
Kathy Orlando in memory of
Virginia Drury
Thomas Orlando
Ormsbee Gas
Rena Orner in memory of
Bill and Ellen Murtagh
John and Charlotte Owens
Judith Papachristou
Gary Penfield and
Ginny Perelson
Wesley Petersen
Fred Pomerantz
David and Marsha Pottle
Joan and Ken Powers in memory*

of Freddie Martin
 Lucy Prashker
 Carlson Propane in memory of
 Theresa Brazie
 Nancy and Bob Rathbun in
 memory of Laura Percy
 Joe and Carol Reich
 Ann M. Riou
 Muriel Rokos
 Susan Rothschild and
 Don Freedman
 Kate and George W. Rowe
 Peter and Ellen Rowntree
 Amy Rudnick and Ben Hillman
 Mary and Bob Safian
 Marcia Savage
 Michael J. Saxton
 Beala and Stephen J. Schiffman
 Joanne Schmidlin in memory of
 John I. Day
 Charles and Elizabeth Schmidt
 Bernie and Shellie Schneider
 Judy and Bill Schnurr
 Kenneth and Rebecca Schopp
 Charles and Pauline Schumann
 Judith and Gary Schumer
 Joseph Schwartzman in memory
 of Beverly Schwartzman
 Andrea Scott and Rob Jenter
 Dennis Sears and Rene Wood
 Gillian Shallcross
 Robert and Ann Shanks
 Myron and Marion Sheinberg
 Barbara and Jim Shiminski
 Susan Silver
 Evelyn Small in memory of
 Jim Small
 Betsy Smith in memory of
 Mildred R. Smith
 David A. Smith, Sr.
 George T. Smith
 Nik and Sig Spiegel
 Janet G. Stanton
 Dr. Walton Stevens
 John and Appy Stookey
 Noreene Storrie and
 Wesley McCain
 Wanda M. Styka
 Kathy and Tom Tetro
 Robert and Rebecca Thomas
 Ronald and Judith Timm
 Peter and Doris Traub
 Albert Trocchi in memory of
 Edith Trocchi
 Lois Van Cleef
 Merle and Karen Varney
 Edith and Loet Velmans

Eileen Vining
 Hank Vollmer III
 David and Barbara West
 Elsie West
 F. Robert Wheeler, Jr.
 Marion Whitman
 Marilyn and John Wightman
 Wilkinson Excavating
 Martha Williamson
 Thomas A. Wilson
 Thomas H. and Susan B. Young
 Richard Zimmerman and
 Elissa Williams
 Dorothea Zucker-Franklin, M.D.

VERY SPECIAL THANKS

Many thanks to Kimball Oil and their suppliers for the donation of a new furnace for the Dan Raymond House. When you visit, see the plaque on the cellar door.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March Meeting

William Suriner, talking about his recent publication describing the farm experience in Dalton in the 1940s. Friday, March 9, 7:30 p.m. Dewey Memorial Hall.

April meeting

Much has changed in the Sheffield area over the past 125 years. Join local historian Gary Leveille and the members of the Sheffield Historical Society as we take a trip back in time to see how things used to be. With the help of rare old photographs and antique postcards – converted into an entertaining Powerpoint presentation entitled *Sheffield Then and Now* – we will

“travel” by train, horse and buggy, and antique auto into the past to see many incredible sights! Included will be rarely-seen old-time views of Sheffield and the surrounding area. **The event will be held on Friday, April 13. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. at Dewey Memorial Hall**, which is located on Route 7, in the center of Sheffield. The program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Gary Leveille is a local historian and author. His most recent book is the best-selling photo history entitled *Old Route 7 – Along the Berkshire Highway*. His previous book is entitled *Around Great Barrington and Stockbridge*. Leveille is also a columnist for *The Berkshire Record*, where he produces the popular "Berkshire Then & Now" photo history column.

Leveille is vice-president of the Great Barrington Historical Society, principal of Berkshire Creative Communications, and has over 25 years experience as a writer, editor and author. Leveille was formerly a senior editor and editorial project supervisor for Hasbro Games in Springfield, MA. He has worked on numerous editorial projects for Milton Bradley, Hasbro, Parker Brothers, Disney, National Geographic, Antiques Roadshow, and many others.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT in the local media for details on additional special spring 2007 events, as well as information on the May and June meetings.

Dear Members and Friends of SHS,

It is with regret that the Board of Trustees accepted the resignation of Dr. Joanne Hurlbut, our Director, effective February 24. Her leadership during her 8-year tenure has seen the Society become reputedly the best in the county. Because of her efforts we have studies of our property and its buildings, much of the collection is properly stored in acid-free boxes, our school and cemetery programs continued, and new programs were developed with the library; two most recent were the baseball-theme program on Martin Luther King Day and a History Mystery program for students on February 6. Last summer's professional symposium, "If They Close the Door on You, Go in the Window," crowned her work with us by bringing in two excellent lecturers and a panel of local citizens, including our president, Wray Gunn.

Temporary plans for running the organization include the separation of Joanne's work among the board members and volunteers while the Board of Trustees considers job descriptions for staffing. The following people have accepted interim responsibilities:

Exhibits: Jim Miller

Grants: Philip Detjens

Newsletter: Lois Levinsohn and Catherine Miller

Annual Appeal: Wray

Gunn and Dennis Sears

Collections: Chris Kelley and Jim Miller

Programs: Joyce Hawkins

The previously-planned Long-Range Planning meeting of February 17, held at the Landmark building and facilitated by Lynne Terrelle, Director of Development at Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic, took on additional importance with Joanne's leaving. The 17 participants included most of the present board, many of the past presidents, 2 at-large SHS members, and Joanne Hurlbut. Its goal to look at our future resulted in a revised Mission Statement which did not change the mission of the organization; a plan to study the programs by an ad hoc committee consisting of Kathie Ness, Joyce Hawkins, Brian Levinsohn, and Jim and Catherine Miller; and a determination to preserve the buildings, which is already under way, including an environmental upgrade. A major discussion resulted in the renewal of our wish to be a volunteer organization with strong professional support.

Looking back at 2006, the Festival of Trees and Stone Store sales in November and December were most successful. The net proceeds for the 8 weekends were over \$7,000. Many thanks to all who contributed trees and wreaths and centerpieces, to those who worked the weekends of the event, and to our customers. Special thanks to Jim and Catherine Miller, Lois Levinsohn, René Wood and Dennis Sears, Doreen Atwood, and Dorothy Marosy.

The 2007 Annual Appeal / Membership Drive will take place in March. The 2006 Annual appeal

brought in over \$17,000 for the workings of the Society—maintaining the buildings and grounds, salaries, and programs. By the time you receive this newsletter, the request for 2007-08 will have been mailed.

Cathy and Tom Tetro are working hard to create an outstanding exhibit of their private collection of antique wicker. Plans are coalescing for other events to accompany their exhibit in July.

As we go into the future with renewed energy, we count on your continued support and good will.

See you in Sheffield,

Marcia Brolli

Join us for our spring and summer programs and events!

Volunteers Needed!

In addition to the many hardworking volunteers already listed, the Society needs extra hands to help out at its many events. A focus of activity for this year will be the exhibitions in the Old Stone Store. While it is true that many volunteers from last year will again be behind the desk at the Store, not every one will return this year. In the past, the Director did fill in on those days when a volunteer could not be found to sit at the Store. Since that will not be an option for this year, it is even more important that new volunteers step up to greet visitors, talk about the exhibits, and share all the activities the SHS engages in; please call and sign up for some summer fun at the Old Stone Store.



DIRECTOR'S FAREWELL



The farewell party for Director Hurlbut was held on Friday, February 16, at the Old Stone Store. Over fifty people turned out to say goodbye. Foodstuffs were plentiful, talk was lively, and a good time was had by all.

For almost 8 full years, I have left North Adams in the morning and headed south to Sheffield. It has been a drive that is both beautiful and one which has brought me to a place where the people are friendly, helpful, and kind. Besides the community, this area is rich in history, which in turn made for interesting stories to uncover and share with people. I have truly enjoyed sharing those tales, but it is time for me to move on.

I have been holding down three part-time jobs now for many months and all three are demanding jobs. I have given up my long commute to Sheffield (almost 3 hours a day) for the other two jobs, which are only 5 and 10 minutes from my home.

I will now serve full-time as the Education Access Coordinator for the Northern Berkshire Community Television Corporation. I used the equipment from this organization to film the fall Symposium *If They Close the Door on You, Go in the Window*. I will be thinking of Sheffield as I edit that material in the upcoming weeks. Keep an eye out for the listings of when that production will air on CTSB.

My other job is as an Adjunct Faculty for Berkshire Community College. If you need to learn your American or Western Civilization history, check out the Northern Campus for BCC in North Adams.

I cannot begin to list all the wonderful memories that I will take with me from my years at SHS. The opportunity to research so many var-

ied aspects of the local story—from the characters developed in the cemetery programs, to the information behind the exhibits, including the artifacts and especially the photographs of the MDRC collection, to the thematic programs, such as our Native American Heritage Day—made learning about Sheffield and its people a real pleasure.

But it has truly been the people of Sheffield and surrounding communities that I have enjoyed working with the most. I will certainly miss that aspect of my job. THANK YOU so much to all who have assisted me over the years!! I could never list everyone or say thanks enough. Finally—THANK YOU for my wonderful party!! I will keep my eye on Sheffield and be in touch.



159 Main Street
PO Box 747
Sheffield, MA 01257

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

The 1774 Dan Raymond House hours: by
appointment during the winter months.

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

Old Stone Store hours are Saturday, 10 a.m. to
3 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed January
through April.

WE'RE ON THE WEB
SHEFFIELDHISTORY.ORG

Exhibitions at the Old Stone Store

Board of Directors 2007

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Beginning in May 2007, the Old Stone Store will open its doors to a full slate of exhibitions.

Here's a quick preview. Stop in as often as you like; Shop Managers Dorothy Marosy and Doreen Atwood will have plenty of new materials on hand from their recent travels to a special American craftsman show in Portland, Maine. So, enjoy the exhibits and take home a little something extra to share with family and friends.

First up will be a **collaborative project focusing on the environment, in particular on trees**. The MDRC will work with Tom Ingersoll and the local school community. The exhibit will use photographic re-

cords from the Society and community items.

Opening on Friday, June, 15 will be the return engagement of the **Five Artists**. This exhibition runs through July 1.

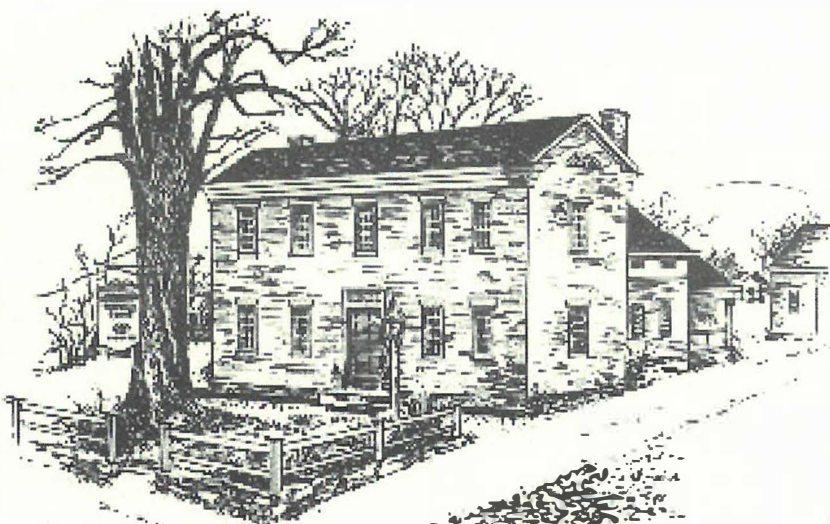
Saturday, July 7, will see the opening of **Wicker Furniture by Tom and Kathy Tetro**. They have volunteered their time and materials to create this fascinating show.

Opening August 18 through September 2 will be the **Artist Lori Baker**.

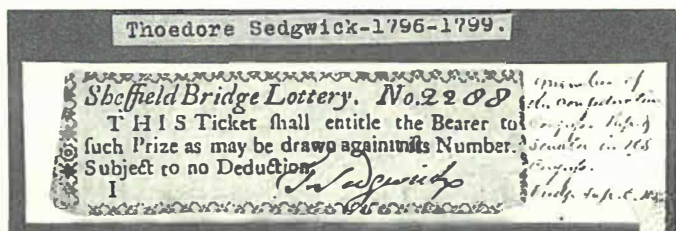
The final exhibition will be curated by **James R. Miller and focus on lighting devices**; this opens September 8.

The Sheffield Historical Society

Summer 2007



Early Sheffield Lottery Ticket Resurfaces



This document is a facsimile of a late 18th century Sheffield Bridge Lottery ticket signed by Sheffield's own Theodore Sedgwick. The original recently came up for auction on e-Bay; unfortunately, the Society was out-bid.

An item offered for sale on e-Bay illuminated a heretofore unknown aspect of Sheffield's internal improvement program during its early years. The construction of bridges and roads, a persistent, heavy drain on town finances, was remedied, in part, through a bridge lottery in the late 18th century. Its purpose was to raise money for their construction and maintenance.

The history of lotteries in America goes back to the Virginia Company in 1612 when one was held to provide funds for colonization of that future state. They continued to be popular in the 1700's with legislatures authorizing lotteries for every type of public improvement from building churches and colleges to the construction of roads and bridges.

The e-Bay item, a ticket for SHEFFIELD BRIDGE LOTTERY No. 2288, (shown here) was signed by Sheffield's Theodore Sedgwick, a member of the Confederation Congress, U.S. Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and later Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court.

While the Society bid on the ticket, it dropped out of the bidding at \$200. The same item for a Connecticut bridge lottery the same day went for \$375. We will have to be satisfied with a color copy printed from e-Bay, perfectly fine for research but not so great for exhibit.

—James Miller, MDRC

Thank you. We thank our friends for gifts both great and small.

- To those who have given to the Annual Appeal / Membership Drive—much appreciation for the work you enable us to do—both in enhancing the physical plant, supporting our research with new equipment in the office and the research center, and encouraging us to continue. The list will be published in the fall.

- To Rob Robins, Madeleine and Clem, who gave generously from the barn this past spring. Among the items donated were a hand-drawn map of farm land of Henry and William Boardman, 1849, a missionary membership certificate for M. Elizabeth Sage, 1889, a hay cradle, wooden scythe, and a hay hook with mechanism.

- To Steve Phillips for painting the front windows of the Stone Store as a gift.

- To Gretta Willig of Gretta's Market for donating the coffee for the opening exhibit at the Stone Store this spring.

Dear Members and Friends of SHS,

So many good things are happening: a new administrator in the office, fresh paint to come on all the buildings, increased donations to the Annual Appeal/Membership drive, an opening up of the Society grounds to the new parking area for Sheffield center, and great exhibits in the Stone Store.

Our fresh face is Joanna Jennings, a photographer and graphic artist as well as an historic house expert. We are sharing her with the Bidwell House where she has been a docent, freshened up their newsletter and designed their other print work, created exhibits, planned school programs, and done work with their collections.

She met several of our members at the annual meeting, but please stop by at the Dan Raymond House Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday and introduce yourselves. You might enjoy the new tour of the Dan Raymond House and Carriage Barn.

The painting of the Mark Dewey Research Center and Stone Store has been wonderfully done by Steve Phillips, our painting contractor. He will do the Dan Raymond House next, and then the other buildings. We are facing major work on the foundation of the Carriage Barn, but the Board agreed to go ahead with the painting.

The exhibit season, under the guidance of Jim Miller, had a terrific start with Tom Ingersoll and the Sheffield Tree Project and Chris Covey and Mt. Everett giving an overview of Sheffield Trees: Past, Present, and Future. It continues with the Five Friends art exhibit. The highlight of the summer is the 2-floor display of antique wicker by Kathy and Tom Tetro of Corner House Antiques, who are presenting their personal collection of unusual and remarkable antique wicker furniture from July 7-August 12.

And of course, we will again hold our Summer Feast-the roast beef, pork, and turkey dinner (formerly the Pigge Roast) and craft fair on August 25.

See you in Sheffield,

Marcia Brolli

Please remember to join us for our summer programs and events!

Annual Reports

The Mark Dewey Research Center

The Mark Dewey Research Center (MDRC) of the Society is a depository on the history of the tri-state area with primary focus on Sheffield. Its volunteers, Betty Chapin, Jim Miller and David Prouty, research and answer inquiries received by e-mail at mdrc@sheffieldhistory.org, telephone at 229-3682, snail mail at Box 747, Sheffield, and drop-ins during regular hours, 1:30 to 4:00 Friday and Monday. (If a volunteer is available, special appointments can also be made.)

Another important function of the Center is collecting material on the town's history. The principal source for this project is through the inquiries that are fielded by the volunteers. As part of the regular operating procedure, a request is made for a copy of the client's final work. This is what makes our collection absolutely unique since no other institution contains so many of these rich depositories of local Sheffield history and genealogy.

The most significant forward movement this year came through the financial generosity of an anonymous donor that allowed the MDRC to subscribe to on-line data bases, digitized books and manuscripts, adding significantly to its research capabilities. One is Ancestry.com of RootsWeb which offers vast resources of public and private records nationwide. Secondly, with primary emphasis on New England and the middle states, the Center also subscribes on-line to the holdings of Godfrey Memorial Library in Middletown, CT.

The volunteers can assist you in your research if you wish, or you made do your own on site. All of the Center's services are free except for a modest charge for copies.

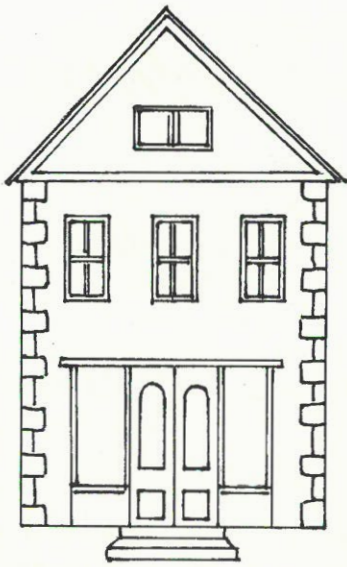
Jim Miller, Archivist

Treasurer's Comments

In the Treasurer's opinion, the finances of the Society are sound and improved as we approach the end of the Fiscal Year. We can measure our success through several metrics:

1. Our gross income, (excludes withdrawal from our endowment), will be up around 34%. This primarily due to our every other year Silent Auction/Tag Sale.
2. Our endowment withdrawal will be well under our 4% limit.
3. Our portfolio has grown around 13% net after withdrawal.
4. Our annual appeal is running up about 10% over last year.
5. We've spent around \$10,000 on building maintenance, primarily in

Annual Reports Continued on Page 5



Upcoming 2007 Events & Exhibition Schedule at the Old Stone Store

July 7-August 12. **American Antique Wicker.**

Kathy and Tom Tetro of Corner House Antiques are exhibiting on both floors of the Stone Store. The wicker exhibit will feature their private collection including some unique items from the turn of the last century, 1890-1920.

July 21, 11 am. John Wall, an authority on Wakefield wicker, will present an overview of the life of Cyrus Wakefield, noted founder of American wicker. The presentation will be held in the Old Parish Fellowship Rooms.

July 21, 1-4pm. Charlie Flint, appraiser & antiques dealer, owner of Charles Flint Antiques in Lenox, MA, will hold an "American Roadshow" antiques appraisal session. The event will take place in the Old Parish Fellowship Rooms.

August 18-September 3. Lori and Ernie Barker, artists from Goshen, CT, will exhibit their mixed media creations.

September 8-October 30. **Fire and Light:** American hearth cooking and home lighting devices to 1860.

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, August 25. **Annual Dinner & Craft Fair**
at the American Legion Hall on Rte. 7.

Saturday, September 15. John Sedgwick, author of *In My Blood*, will present a book talk & signing in conjunction with the Bushnell Sage Library/

Saturday, October 13. **Sheffield Tombstone Art & Cemetery Tour.** Cemetery talk featuring the work of artist Karin Sprague followed by the annual walk led by Jim Miller.

Sat., November 10. Ruth Bass, author of *Sarah's Daughter*, will present a book talk & signing in conjunction with the Bushnell Sage Library.

Remembering the Society's History...

At a Strategic Planning Conference this winter several members met to write a mission statement. Throughout the past 35 years, the Society's milestones have been many. It is vital to our mission's objective to remain in touch with our roots, particularly in Sheffield, the oldest town in Berkshire county, where to remember our history is never far from remembering who we are.

1972

(August) Society founded by group of 16 local residents officers elected (Lillian Preiss, President) monthly programs (September - June) open to public established

1973

Milton Barnum & Edward Warren purchase Dan Raymond House to hold until Society is able to raise \$25,000 to take ownership • Society sponsors 2 day event to mark 200th Anniversary of signing of Sheffield Declaration of Independence

1974

Warren & Macchi, Inc. donate Parker L. Hall Law Office • Bicentennial Grant (\$2,700) awarded for relocation and restoration

1975

Society takes ownership of Dan Raymond House

1978

First Annual Antiques Flea Market on Massini's field • Dan Raymond House library established

1979

Assisted with fund raising for restoration of Upper Covered Bridge • First annual turkey dinner with all the fixings

1980

Developed comprehensive report on furnishing Dan Raymond House

1983

Society beneficiary of \$300,000 from estate of Sally Scanlon • Dan Raymond House restoration begun in earnest • Helped organize and participated in the 250th Anniversary activities for Town of Sheffield • First Annual Covered Bridge Ramble (runners and walkers) • Scholarship established for Mt. Everett senior

1984

Society acquires a Post Office box (#747)

1985

Carriage House/Barn renovated • Outdoor flea market changed to upscale indoor antiques show at Berkshire School; professional manager engaged to run three day show • Received deaccessioned cast iron toys from Smithsonian Institution • Williamstown Regional Art Conservatory conducted site survey of manuscripts, works of art and printed materials • Federation of Historical Services surveyed the DRH Museum • Consultant (free) from Massachusetts Council on Arts and Humanities suggested multiple-period rooms for DRH

1986

Greg Farmer of New England Historical Services, Inc. prepared a narrative history of the DRH • Society purchased the Mark Dewey Hat Shop, now MDRC

1988

Ten Year Goals Committee established; decision to establish the Mark Dewey Center for historical and genealogical research in the hatter's shop

1990

Opening of Mark Dewey Research Center

1998

Search Committee established to hire first professional director of Society; Dennis Picard hired • First Annual Artisans Festival (Early American Crafts Festival) • First Spirits of Sheffield Cemetery Program • Place in Time Program for elementary school children established • Recreation of march of General Ashley's troops (Shay's Rebellion) • Carriage House tool museum established

1999

Picard resigned; Search Committee established to seek new director • Joanne Hurlbut named second director of Society • Society acquired Old Stone Store; fund raising program to restore begun

2000

Carrie Smith Lorraine photographic exhibit opened • First Festival of Trees established

2001

19th Century Smokehouse relocated and restored

2002

Society published *Early Life in Sheffield* by James R. Miller • First garden party initiated • Stone Store renovation completed and available for exhibits • NEH grant (\$5,000) received

2003

Society published *Spend a Summer in Sheffield & Environs* by Bernard Drew • Gift shop in Old Stone store opened • Five year plan for future undertaken

2004

First Silent Auction and Tag Sale • Scholar in Residence Program established • Preservation Assistance Grant from National Endowment for the Humanities

2005

Native American Heritage Day

2006

Symposium: *If They Close the Door on You, Go in the Window*

2007

J. Hurlbut resigned; Society begins planning for future

Compiled by Catherine Miller

long overdue painting. We see our way clear to finish this major program over the next fiscal year.

Many thanks to all of the donors of time, treasure, and talent who have made this possible over many years and in some cases past their lifetimes through the bequests and donations that have built our endowment.

H. Dennis Sears, Treasurer

Report on the Society's Grants

The Sheffield Historical Society wishes to acknowledge, and give its sincere thanks for, the Grants received during 2006-07 fiscal year from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, in the amount of \$2500, and the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, in the amount of \$500.

The Massachusetts Cultural Council is a state agency in Boston governed by a Board of private citizens appointed by the Governor representing various regions of the State. The mission of the Council is to promote the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences for all Massachusetts residents. This Grant provided badly needed funds for various building maintenance projects, primarily painting, pertaining to the Society's two main buildings, and additionally, was used to send our Director to attend the New England Museum Association's Annual Conference.

The Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation is a nonprofit organization headquartered in Great Barrington, MA, serving the Berkshires and four adjoining counties. Its mission is to improve the quality of life in the Berkshire Taconic region through philanthropy. Funds received were used to install fire and security alarm systems and door locks.

Philip Detjens, Finance Committee

Notes from the Programming Committee

Sheffield Historical Society fall & winter events will include two book signings — one with John Sedgwick, author of *In My Blood*, and one with Ruth Bass, author of *Sarah's Daughter*. Both programs are being presented in conjunction with the Bushnell Sage Library and will be held at the library.

A cemetery talk in October will feature the work of artist Karin Sprague followed by the annual walk led by Jim Miller. The schedule continues this winter with our annual holiday social and the January "What's It?" featuring Chris Coenen and others.

Spring 2008 events may include a vintage wedding exhibit and a lecture on New England stonewalls by Robert Thorson.

Joyce Hawkins, Programming Committee

Greetings Members and Friends!

The Annual Meeting was well attended and I have met many of you already. For those of you who could not make it, please consider stopping by the office in back of the Dan Raymond House. I am here Tuesday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Aside from attending to administrative matters and playing clerical catch-up, in my first weeks I have spent some time familiarizing myself with the history of the oldest town in Berkshire County. Visits to historic memorials and landmarks — points of interest that generally tend to become prosaic to the local resident — have taken on another dimension since I have started in on my new role. I look forward to finding venues to share my impressions of Sheffield's historic legacy and heritage.

My appreciation and enthusiasm could find expression in many ways in the future from an exhibit which I might organize and curate, a revitalized children's program, grants to research and pursue, to the preservation of the Society's collection and its digital archive. But, most tangibly, right now for me would be the focus of the story we tell at the Dan Raymond House.

I have already spent some time among the collection and with the docent training materials that Dennis Picard had first established during his term. As I've been learning the history, I wonder if there are any volunteers out there who would be interested in leading a tour of the Dan Raymond House. In reviewing the guest books from the past years I can see that we don't get a huge amount of traffic, but I am confident that we could change that with some fresh interest and a fresh approach. This is one of my strengths, and I would be happy to train some new docents come mid-July.

With the new position come many responsibilities and challenges. Among them is the design and ongoing maintenance of the Society's website. As many of you have probably noticed, we could really use a facelift! The Society has purchased a copy of Adobe Dreamweaver and I am eager to tackle this project. Is there anyone out there with some web design experience or interest who might like to collaborate with me?

The door is always open here and all are welcome.

*Thank you,
Joanna Jennings,
Your new Administrator*

Dessert Bakers- Join Us for Pigge Roast!

Call Sheffield Historical Society

(413) 229-2694

HISTORICAL SOCIETY WISH LIST:

One contemporary flush toilet

2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marcia Brolli, *President*

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H. Dennis Sears, *Acting Treasurer*

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Joyce Hawkins

Brian Levinsohn

Sarah Macy

Philip Detjens

Mark Ziobro

MUSEUM STAFF

Introducing...

Joanna Jennings, *Administrator*

FORMERLY THE PIGGE ROAST

with Master Roaster Scott Ryan

& CRAFT FAIRE

Saturday, August 25, 2007



American Legion Hall, SHEFFIELD

Craft Faire from 10:00 til 4:00

Dessert contest at 3:00

Serving from 4:00 until 6:30

Roasting beef, chicken & pork

TAKE-OUT AVAILABLE

Adults \$17 (\$15 pre-paid), Children \$8

Children under 8 free

Sponsored by the Sheffield Historical Society

CALL (413)229-2694 FOR RESERVATIONS

The Sheffield Historical Society's mission is to promote a wider understanding of the people and events that preceded us in this area, and to preserve and transmit that heritage to current and future generations.



The Sheffield Historical Society

Dan Raymond House Museum • Mark Dewey Research Center

WWW.SHEFFIELDHISTORY.ORG

Phone: 413-229-2694
E-mail: shs@sheffieldhistory.org

1774 Dan Raymond House is open

July-October, Tuesday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Or by appointment.

Mark Dewey Research Center is open

Monday & Friday, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Or by appointment. E-mail: mdrc@sheffieldhistory.org

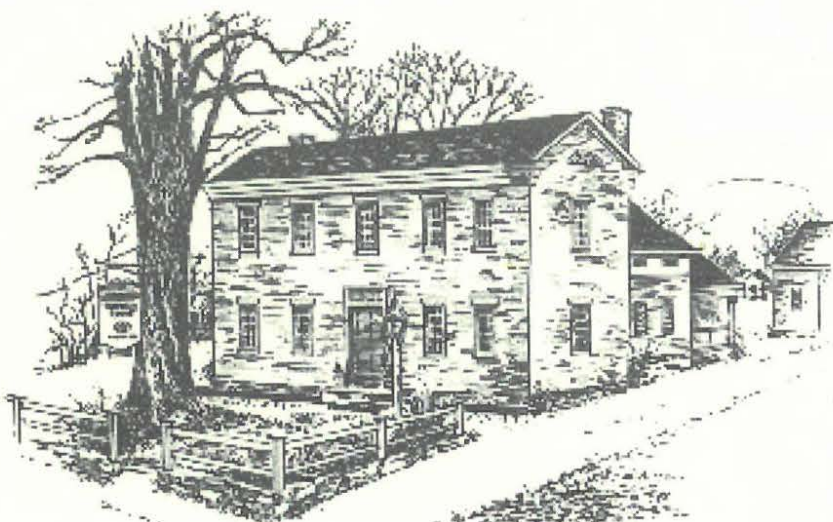
Old Stone Store is open on weekends,

Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Closed January through April

The Sheffield Historical Society

Autumn 2007



October is Cemetery Program Month! *Remember to join us for three related events this month*

On Saturday, October 13th Karin Sprague of Karin Sprague Stone Carvers LLC in North Scituate, Rhode Island will give a demonstration of letter cutting along with a talk on the origins of her interest, her techniques and the process that goes into designing her markers. The program will begin at 2 pm in Dewey Memorial Hall.

Karin Sprague is a noted East Coast stonecutter who specializes in custom burial markers that reflect the unique interests and lives of individual customers. Designed and executed in concert with her clients, each piece created at the shop is original, designed by Karin herself, and all of the lettering and sculpture is hand-drawn and hand-carved.

In recent years, the ancient craft of hand-carving stone has become virtually unheard of; in fact, Ms. Sprague's is one of but ten hand cutters still working in the country today. Her work is much admired and sought after. Part of her mission is to preserve this elegantly precise and meticulous craft, making it available to the contemporary individual by selling hand-carved work, teaching carving classes, and leading demonstrations at different locations.

Ms. Sprague has three markers in Berkshire County: two in Sheffield and one in Monterey

Following the Saturday October 13 program by noted stone carver Karin Sprague, a walking tour of nearby Barnard Cemetery will be given by James Miller. His program will focus on the less observed characteristics of markers such as carving styles, stone types and clues that help to date markers.

The work of 19th century Sheffield cutter Asahel Savage will be one emphasis of the informal tour. He learned his stone cutting in the Wethersfield, Connecticut area, creating baroque style grave markers from brownstone. Almost certainly Asahel was

Continued on page 5



Barnard Cemetery circa 1902. An Edwardian woman visits the headstones of Col. John Ashley and his wife Hannah one hundred years after the Colonel's death in 1802.

Saturday, October 13th • 2 pm
KARIN SPRAGUE & JIM MILLER
Saturday, October 27th • 2 pm
SHEFFIELD SPIRIT WALK

Celebrating our Summer events at the...



Sabina Ullrich has her vase appraised by the Flints while president, Marcia Brolli, and Joan Brooks, who volunteered to cashier, look on.

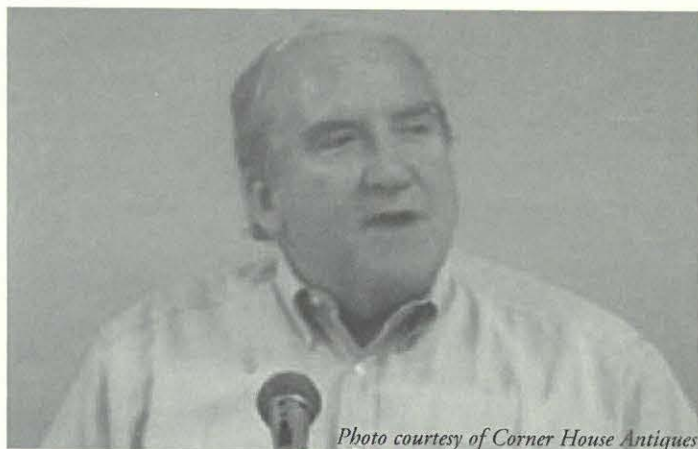
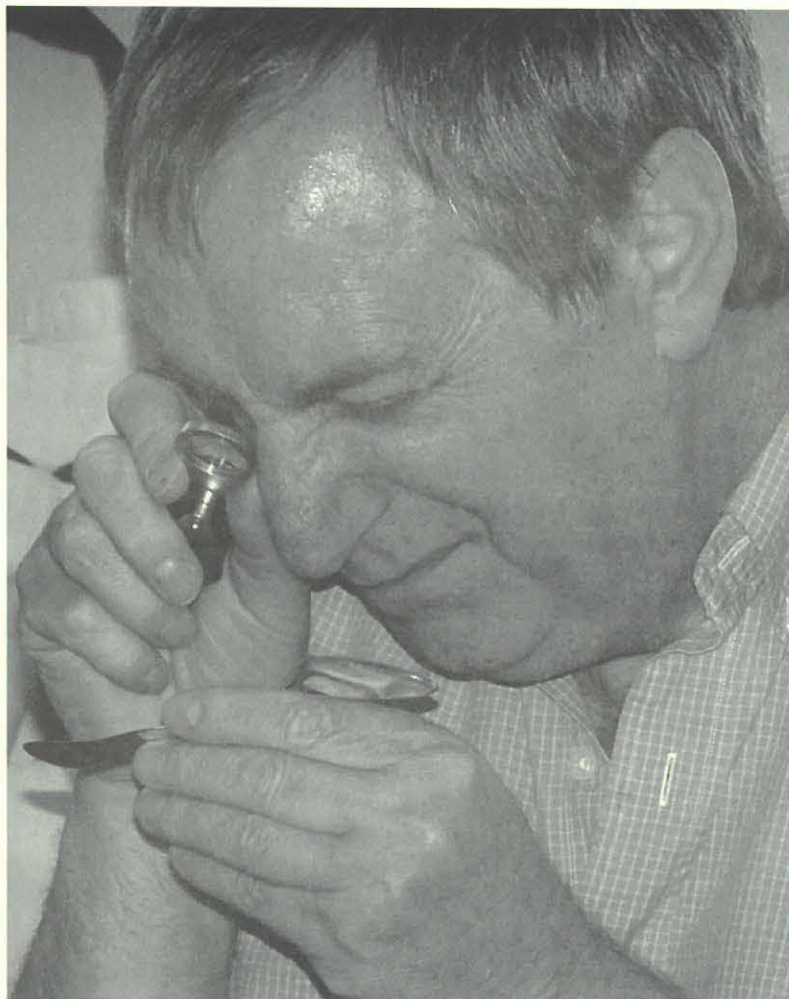


Photo courtesy of Corner House Antiques

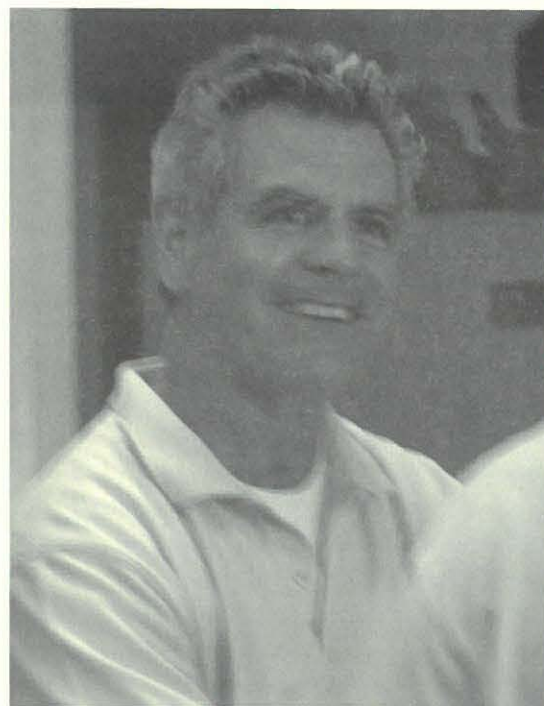
John Wall, Vice President of the Wakefield Historical Society, was our guest speaker on American Antique Wicker Day. He spoke on the life of Cyrus Wakefield, noted founder of American Antique Wicker. For those of you who missed Wall's lecture, stop by the Society to borrow a DVD recording prepared by CTSB-TV.



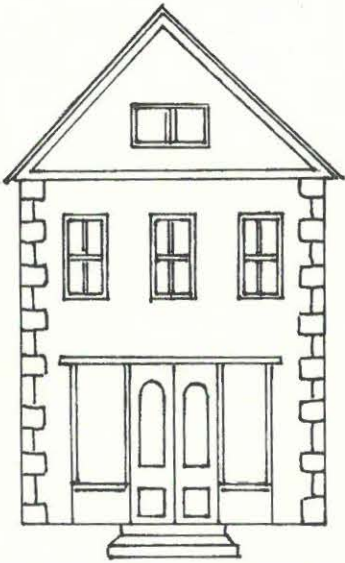
Catherine Miller demonstrates how one rings a bell without a belfry.



Charlie & Joy Flint of Flint Appraisals in Lenox spent the afternoon in the Old Parish Fellowship rooms performing Appraisals and assessments on various heirlooms and notables which people brought in for their expertise.



*Tom Tetro of
Corner House
Antiques...*



Upcoming 2007-8 Events & Exhibition Schedule at the Old Stone Store

September 8th-October 30th

Fire & Light in the American Home, 1660-1860.

An exhibit of American hearth cooking implements and home lighting devices curated by Jim Miller.

Saturday, October 13th, 2 pm. **Sheffield Tombstone Art & Cemetery Tour.**

Lettercarving workshop with Karin Sprague in Dewey Memorial Hall followed by a talk & tour of Barnard Cemetery led by Jim Miller. Refreshments will be served.

Barnard Cemetery is opposite Root Lane on the south side of town.

Saturday, October 27th, 2 pm. **Annual Sheffield Spirit Walk.**

Just in time for Halloween! Join us in Center Cemetery for a theatrical reencounter with Sheffield history as memorable residents from our town's past are recast! Learn their stories as they are vividly brought back to life before you.

Center Cemetery is located on Berkshire School Rd.

Saturday, November 10th, 2 pm. **Ruth Bass, author of *Sarah's Daughter*,** will present a book talk & signing in conjunction with the Bushnell Sage Library.

The program will take place at the Bushnell-Sage Library.

November 10th-December 23rd. **9th Annual Festival of Trees.**

Saturdays & Sundays from 10-2 with occasional extended hours.

Shop for everyone on your list at the Sheffield Historical Society's Holiday Bazaar.

Featuring an array of handmade goods including miniature trees, wreaths, ornaments, jewelry, holiday treats, gifts, raffles. Upstairs holiday tag sale and Stone Store markdowns.

The Festival will have special extended hours from 11 to 5 on Black Friday (Nov. 23rd).

Sunday, December 2nd, 4:30-6 pm. **Dan Raymond House Holiday Social.**

Come gather round the festive Keeping Room fireside and enjoy some holiday cheer.

Join friends new and old. Music, merriment and more.

Friday, January 11, 2008, 7:30 pm. **What's It? Night**

The subject as ever has yet to be determined. Curious? Come find out!

The program will take place in Dewey Memorial Hall.

Ruth Bass to Speak on November 10th



Ruth Bass

On Nov. 10th, the Sheffield Historical Society, in conjunction with the Bushnell-Sage Library, will present a book signing and talk by Berkshire Eagle columnist Ruth Bass.

A longtime resident of the Berkshires, Ruth Bass has won many awards for writing and editing and was recently inducted into the New England Press Association's Hall of Fame. Her weekly column on Mondays considers everything from

Tanglewood to preserving summer garden produce, and occasionally, local news controversies. *Sarah's Daughter*, which she will read and discuss, is her first novel.

Sarah's Daughter, set in the post-Civil War era in New England, is the poignant story of Rose, a 14-year-old girl who has suddenly lost her mother. Trying her best to "hold up" in spite of her own grief, Rose has the new responsibilities of replacing her mother's role in caring for two younger siblings, cooking, cleaning, and helping her father on the farm, while continuing her schoolwork.

Mrs. Bass's heart-rending story is truly a page-turner, historically researched down to the most common household tasks. The 19th century view of women is paramount, as Rose's love of school clashes with her father's perceptions of a girl's duties at home. Rose's perseverance, encouraged by a caring teacher and the warm-hearted, often funny, support of her girlfriends, and, yes, an older boy, form the heart of this novel.

Ruth's Bass's lecture and book signing will take place at the Bushnell-Sage Library in Sheffield at 2 pm. on Saturday, November 10th.

—Joyce Hawkins, Program Chair

We will be compiling an email list of members so that we can send timely reminders of the programming. If you would like to be included, contact Joanna Jennings at shs@sheffieldhistory.org

In Remembrance of Spirits of Sheffield Past: Meditations on Portraiture & Death

On Saturday, October 27 the Society will present its Annual Sheffield Spirit Walk. Starting at 2pm groups of visitors will be guided through Old Center Cemetery. Featured in the program this year and played by the Society Administrator will be the shade of Carrie Smith Lorraine, Sheffield's first female photographer who owned her own portrait business as early as 1902. Other shades will include Frederick Barnard, Rev. James Bradford, Sophia Curtis, Hannah Spurr, and Graham Root.

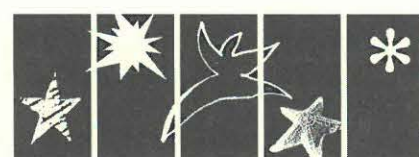
At the turn of the last century in particular there was a fascination with the doppelgänger and death. This preoccupation was undoubtedly influenced in part by the inception of a new medium: photography. In fact, photographic portraiture originally found its tradition in the imaging of the deceased, or post-mortem photography. While an unusual, even shocking practice by contemporary standards, this type of photography was commonplace during this era. We have to remember that untimely death, especially in that of children and women in childbirth was still widespread and photography as a medium was still somewhat novel. Further, photography quickly appealed to the masses because it was affordable: no longer was portraiture restricted to the upper classes in the form of a proper painted likeness. Photography both as a means of index and as the cornerstone in the age of mechanical reproduction is inextricably linked to self-preservation and (im)mortality.

There was a similar thread that ran through poetry dating from this period. Take, for example, the work of Edgar Lee Masters, whose 1916 *Spoon River Anthology* dealt with death in a small mid-western town. Each poem functioned as an epitaph of a dead citizen, delivered by the dead themselves. Some relate their histories and opinions, others make observations of life from the other side, and small-minded ones complain only of the treatment of their graves. However few tell us how they actually died. Speaking candidly, the body of work itself constructs a picture of life in their town that is radically unadulterated.

In both cases, whether the photograph or the lapidary epitaph, the portrait memorializes and seeks to provide and promulgate a lasting legacy of the departed. "Please remember me," the shades beg of Dante in the *Inferno*, "Please remember me."

—Joanna Jennings, Administrator

Sheffield Historical Society is also pleased to announce its 07-08 award from Massachusetts Cultural Council of



\$2500. A portion of this funding will be applied toward programming in the new year. Future plans will be announced as they develop.

October 2007

Dear Members and Friends,

Would you consider helping us finish the preservation of the Sheffield Historical Society's buildings?



Steven Phillips and crew have stayed within the estimate, and in fact have even donated many hours of work beyond the original contract. We need your help in offsetting the cost of unanticipated expenses which include flashing and carpentry repairs on the buildings, sanding, and even a third coat of paint in places.

Our goal is to raise \$3,500 to complete the project. We would be grateful for any assistance you might provide.

This special donation may be sent to:

Sheffield Historical Society

PO Box 747

Sheffield, MA 01257

Cemetery article continued from page 1

trained by a relative of his mother, a second or third generation of the notable Johnson family of carvers from Middletown. In Sheffield, however, Asahel did simple cuttings in marble, the local stone of abundance and therefore economy.

The Savage family came to Sheffield in 1806 from Wethersfield, Connecticut. In that year he purchased, in partnership with his brother-in-law, Daniel Deming, a farm of 375 acres. For the next eight or nine years he worked the land, but in 1815, the two men divided the property, with Savage receiving about half the acreage for \$1,000, about 20% of the original purchase price. This low figure suggests that he received land only, with the house and agricultural buildings being retained by Deming. It was probably then, about 1815, that he turned to stone carving. This possibility is enforced by Sheffield assessors' list of the following year. It shows, for the first time, Savage paying a modest tax on "income," an assessment category reserved for merchants and those who charged for services such as craftsmen, lawyers and physicians. About the same time, his first signed

stone appeared.

For about the next 24 years little is known of Savage's work, but he probably purchased marble for cutting grave stones and divided his time between his own cutting and working in shops for others. It was during this period that he trained Richard Paine Brown, 27 years his junior, who developed into a master carver of distinction.

In 1840, in partnership with his son, Hamlin, Savage purchased land, worked a quarry and established a marble saw mill and cutting shop in Sheffield on Bow Wow Road. They made use of water power from Willard Brook to operate their equipment. Asahel died in 1850. The quarry went bankrupt in 1857, possibly due to iron pyrite content in its marble that rendered it less satisfactory than other local marbles. Conveniently, it is this defect that makes the Savage quarry marble so easy to identify today.

—Jim Miller, Archivist

Dear Members and Friends of SHS,

Welcome to the old and the new.

This fall and winter, we will be continuing the monthly programs, the Spirit Walk, and the Festival of Trees.

*As for the new, the Planning committee last February recommended a reconsideration of our monthly programs and meetings. They suggested that we work with other organizations and that we be more adventurous in the times they are held. As a result, two of this fall's programs are being held in conjunction with and at the Bushnell Sage Library. In September we enjoyed John Sedgwick's reading and talk and signing of *In My Blood*, arranged by Jim Miller. Mr. Sedgwick researched the early part of the book at the Mark Dewey Research Center. On November 10 Ruth Bass will speak about her book *Sarah's Daughter*, her novel of early farm life. Both of these book-centered talks are being held at 2 pm on a Saturday afternoon. In 2008 we will be collaborating with the Sheffield Land Conservancy for their February lecture.*

Your programming suggestions or thoughts are welcome.

Details of the October programs are elsewhere in the newsletter.

Steven Phillips has nearly finished the painting of the Society buildings. Patience is now needed as we watch the paint peel off the brick portion of the Dan Raymond House. The trustees have been advised that the building could not be painted again until the present paint is gone. Steve and his crew have scraped as much as they can and sealed the bare brick to protect it from the elements. The brick, made on site, is too soft to take any kind of blasting. We are delighted that with the new town parking lot and increased visibility we're able to look so good.

Thanks to Phillips Painting and, of course, the folks who keep the grounds so attractive, Anne Riou, our volunteer in the herb garden, and Kathy Moore, who tends the gardens.

Plans are afoot for next year's exhibit season in the Stone Store. Jim Miller has been diligent in keeping presentations historical and interesting. If you haven't seen his fiery exhibit of "Fire and Light" yet, do go. Local collectors have lent us some wonderful pieces which, as one volunteer said, prove that you don't need a college education. The spark of American ingenuity is present in every corner of the Stone Store this month.

As our administrator Joanna Jennings has gotten to know Sheffield and the Society, she has taken on more and more responsibility. This newsletter is her doing, as are our publicity and tours. She is full of new ideas for the new year. Call her to offer your help. She has become part of our lives.

Thank you for your support.

See you in Sheffield,

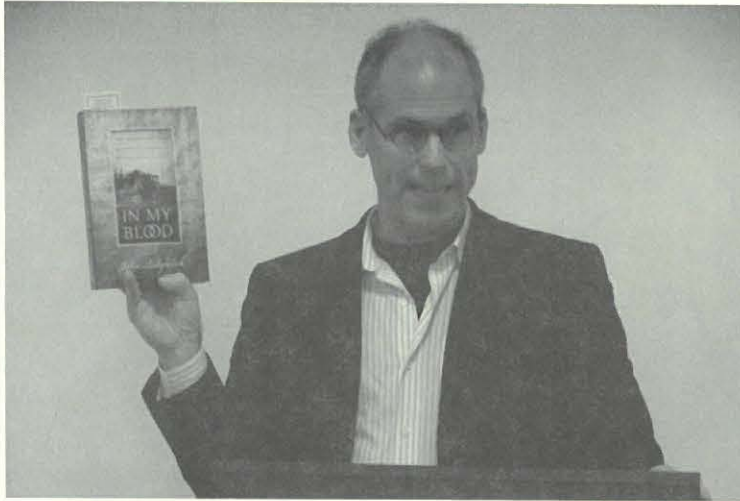
Marcia Brolli



Our New face :-)

Tours of the Dan Raymond House have lessened in the past years. We would like to redesign the tours to include volunteer docents and with them build on Sheffield's history as a farming community as well as the location of the Mumbet story and the Sheffield Declaration. A committee will be formed to create this new program under the leadership of Joanna Jennings. Please call her for more information. We can use your help.

...Sheffield Historical Society



*John Sedgwick talked about his recent book *In My Blood* and gave a humorous account of the triumphs and sorrows of being a descendant of one of America's most prominent families.*



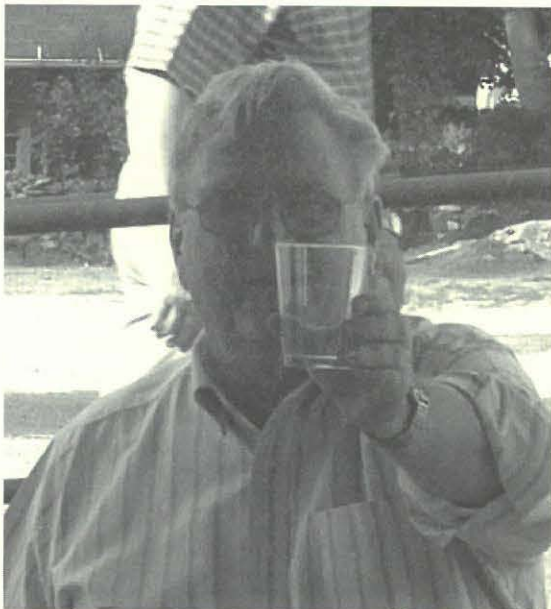
*Sheila Chefetz pauses for a photograph before she signs a copy of her book *Antiques for the Table* for a customer. Proceeds from the book signing were contributed to the Society by Ms. Chefetz.*



Sarah Macy and Brian Levinsohn smile for the camera at the 5th Annual Pig Roast, while the other chefs d'oeuvre, Harry Conklin and Grace Campbell look on.



Dennis Sears, Treasurer, and Sharon Palma, Executive Director of the Southern Berkshire Chamber enjoy company and light refreshments at the wicker exhibit reception.



Ross Hawkins raises a glass to American Antique Wicker.



Brian Levinsohn represents the Historical Society during "Sheffield in Celebration" by offering families free peanuts. For their part in the program the Stone Store ladies featured their Pair and a Spare socks.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY WISH LIST:

- One contemporary flush toilet
- A handyman to do odd jobs around the house

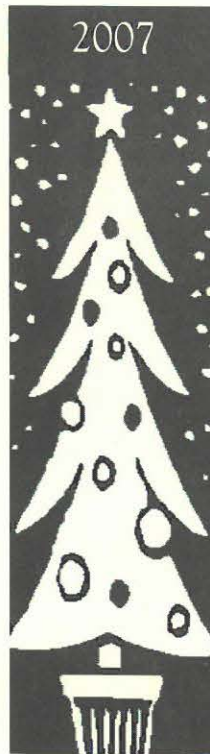
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Marcia Brolli, *President*
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Sarah Macy
Philip Detjens
Mark Ziobro

MUSEUM STAFF

Joanna Jennings, *Administrator*
Betty Chapin, *Volunteer Archivist*
James Miller, *Volunteer Archivist*



Sheffield Historical Society 9th Annual Festival of Trees

The Stone Store, Sheffield Town Green

Weekends in November & December
Saturday & Sunday 10-2

Free Admission

Miniature Trees, Wreaths
Decorations, Ornaments
Holiday Treats
Raffles & Tag Sale

New Holiday Gifts in Stone Store

Special hours on Black Friday from 11-5

HOLIDAY TAG SALE ITEMS
Accepted for Festival of Trees
Please contact the office to coordinate drop-off. 229-2694.

The Sheffield Historical Society's mission is to promote a wider understanding of the people and events that preceded us in this area, and to preserve and transmit that heritage to current and future generations.

Dan Raymond House Museum • Mark Dewey Research Center
WWW.SHEFFIELDHISTORY.ORG



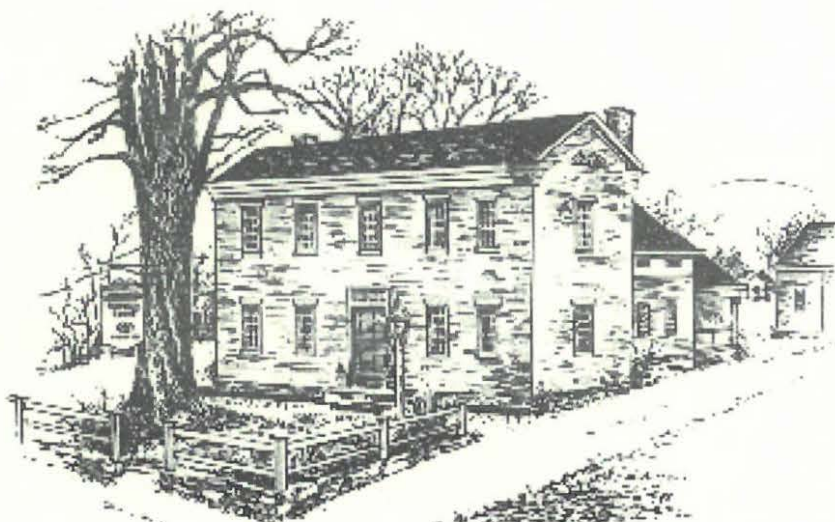
The Sheffield Historical Society

Phone: 413-229-2694
E-mail: shs@sheffieldhistory.org
1774 Dan Raymond House is open
July-October, Tuesday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Or by appointment.
Mark Dewey Research Center is open
Monday & Friday, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Or by appointment. Email: mdrc@sheffieldhistory.org
Old Stone Store is open on weekends,
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Closed January through April.

159 Main Street
PO Box 747
Sheffield, MA 01257

The Sheffield Historical Society

Spring 2008



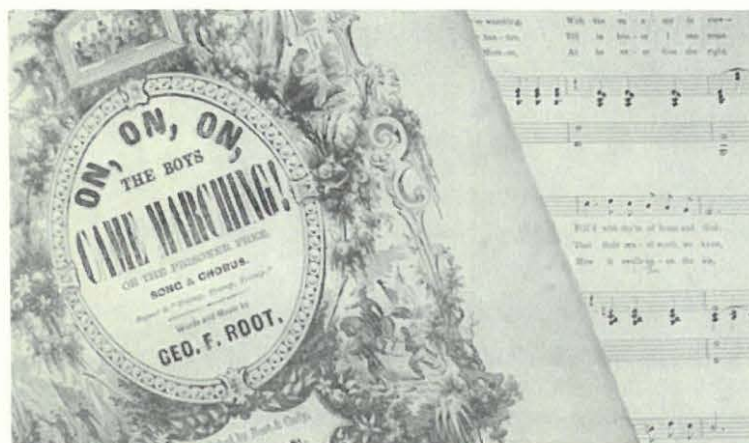
Society's Archives Enriched with Civil War-Era Ephemera

The Society's Mark Dewey Research Center was the recipient of significant ephemera from members John-Arthur and Trudy Weaver Miller in the form of three original pieces of sheet music by George Frederick Root.

Root, the composer of popular Civil War music, was born in Sheffield on August 30, 1820, and maintained a connection with the town until his death. His high esteem in the community is demonstrated by the clock in the tower of the Congregational Church (Old Parish) that was donated to the town by the Sheffield Chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic in Root's memory. The G.A.R. and the Civil War are analogues to the American Legion and World Wars I and II.

The pieces, *Just before the Battle, Mother; Tramp! Tramp! Tramp!* or *Prisoner's Hope*; and *On, On, On, the Boys Came Marching!* also known as *The Prisoner Free* are in fine condition.

Trudy and John-Arthur were also the donors of a signature of George Frederick Root some time ago. These additions to The Society's collection that also contains Root song books, engravings, genealogy, and a biography are the basis of a strong research resource on this important historical figure.



George F. Root sheet music *On, On, On, the Boys Came Marching*
© 1865 by Root and Cady.

The Society's volunteers are always encouraged by unsolicited donations from the public and want to thank the Millers for their thoughtfulness and generosity.

Society to Feature an Unusual Folk Art Collection in *Red, White & Blue* exhibit



Highlights from Mr. Leigh's Collection:
Left, *Whimsical Elizabeth Ross or Lady Liberty* figurine holding needle and thread. Above, *Super patriot* waving American flag with banner pledging "Liberty, Justice, and Peace for all."

For other details about the exhibit, see calendar listing on page 3.

Red, White and Blue; Patriotic Motifs in American Folk Art honoring the 275th anniversary of Sheffield's founding in 1733 will open at the Old Stone Store, Saturday, May 10. It is a show that will appeal to a rainbow of ages and interests covering the gamut of artistic technique and imagination.

Beginning in the 18th century, democratic American values began to be expressed through folk art by unbounded representations of patriotic symbols such as flags, the liberty cap and pole, the bald eagle and classical depictions of Lady Liberty and George Washington. As interpreted by untrained artisans who made objects largely of utilitarian worth, the new values of democracy and freedom found their way in to American culture through women's handiwork, portraiture, advertising and signage, furniture painting, carving, military material, politics, toys, clothing and ephemera.

The heart of this celebratory exhibit, with selected additions, is from the collection of Steven Leigh of Great Barrington and New York, assembled through decades of collecting. An opening reception will be held Saturday, May 17th from 1 to 4 at which time, Mr. Leigh will be available to answer questions and give informal tours of his collection.

Fall & Winter Programs Remembered...



The Society held its sixth annual Spirit Walk on October 28 in Center Cemetery. Joanna Jennings, Ricky Bernstein, Catherine Miller, and Dennis Picard (top) starred as various recast residents from Sheffield's past. Not pictured among those who participated are: Sarah Elizabeth Barnes, Dwight Kelly, and Sarah Macy. Catherine Miller played Sophia Curtis (left) an wealthy eccentric socialite and Joanna Jennings played Carrie Smith Lorraine (right) Sheffield's first female photographer.



In mid October the Historical Society hosted two 5th grade classes from Undermountain School in Center Cemetery for a school program. Above, two girls work on a grave rubbing of a Sheffield family plot. More of their classmates are pictured on page 7.

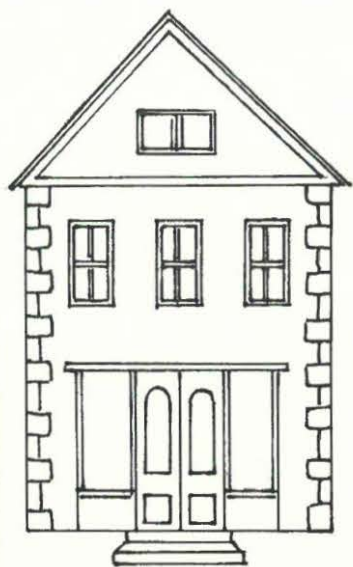


The halls of Dan Raymond House were decked from floor to ceiling to bring in the season at the Holiday Social on December 2. Among the those present were a Loyalist couple from Maple Ave (left). The couple, Jonathan & Lisa Reynolds, are booksellers by occupation but Revolutionary War reenactors by avocation. The Society hopes to involve the Reynolds in the coming years in programming at its 1774 headquarters. Among the decorations and in the Society's collection was a handmade artificial Christmas tree dating from the late 1800s (right).



Above, Gary Levielle and Don Freedman are led by Jim Miller on his October 16 guided walk of Barnard Cemetery, while guest speaker Karin Sprague, a letter carver from Scituate, RI, who joined Jim for the program, looks on. Dennis Sears and Marcia Brolli (left), Joyce Hawkins, Susan & Philip Detjens, Natalie Funk were among those who attended (right).





Upcoming Events & Exhibition Schedule at the Old Stone Store

Friday, March 14th, 7:30 pm.

Colonial Garden Planting & Planning.

Ruth Green, owner of Green Arts Garden Design and head gardener at the Bidwell House Museum, will give a slide presentation and talk about heritage garden planting schemes.

The program will be held in Dewey Memorial Hall.

Saturday, April 5th-May 4th. **Impressions of the Bidwell House Museum.**

Joanna Jennings, the Society Administrator, will show selections from her two past photographic exhibitions of the Bidwell House Museum. In an eerie sort of tableau narrative, these text and image pairings interpret the past using a contemporary technique.

For more information about the artist and her work, visit www.joannajennings.com.

The Old Stone Store exhibit will have an opening reception on Saturday, April 4th, 6-8 pm.

There will be an informal gallery talk on Friday, April 18th at 7:30 pm.

Friday, April 11th, 7:30 pm. **Roads Less Travelled.**

Bernard A. Drew, *Berkshire Eagle* "Our Berkshires" columnist and Great Barrington Historical Society trustee, will verbally explore a variety of old roads in South County.

The program will be held in Dewey Memorial Hall.

Saturday, May 10th, 2 pm. **Wheeler House Tour.**

The Great Barrington Historical Society will offer members of the Sheffield Historical Society a private tour of their newly restored headquarters—the 1771 Wheeler House!

The Wheeler House is located on Rte. 7 across from the Big Y/Staples Plaza.

Saturday, May 16th, 6:30 pm. **An Unfolding History of the Berkshires.**

David J. McLaughlin will present a book talk & signing. In this unique book 'unfolding' timelines tell the history of our picturesque and culturally diverse Berkshire region.

This program will be presented in conjunction with the Bushnell-Sage Library.

The program will be held at the Bushnell-Sage Library.

Saturday, May 10th-June 22nd. **Red, White & Blue.**

The Society will showcase selections from the collection of Stephen Leigh. All of the objects in this miscellany have one thing in common: they are red, white, and blue! The exhibit will be curated by Jim Miller, the Society archivist and resident historian.

The Old Stone Store exhibit will have an opening reception on Saturday, May 17th, 1-4 pm.

Friday, June 13th, 7:30 pm. **Annual Meeting & The Comic Strip**

Paul Banevicius, Berkshire School Art Department Chair, will present a lecture about his upcoming exhibit in the Old Stone Store on the history of the comic strip.

The program will be held in Dewey Memorial Hall.

Friday, June 27th-July 13th. **Five Friends Art Exhibit.**

For more information about this exhibit and other upcoming events, visit www.sheffieldhistory.org.

AA 07 Contributors Continued from page 4

Caroline Y. Lindemann
 Wendy Linscott
 Reverend John S. Lis
 Candida Logan
 Gerald & Selma Lotenberg
 Susan Lushing,
in memory of Wallace Kaminsky
 Alice Lustig
 Bob & Sue MacVeety,
in memory of Floyd Woodbeck
 Sarah W. Macy
 Antonio T. & Marian R. Malnati
 Norman & Barbara Margolis
 Carole Maghery
 Barbara E. Martin
 Shirley Martin
 Dawn S. Massini,
in memory of Henry Massini
 Mark H. Massini,
in memory of Henry Massini
 Wesley McCain &
 Noreen Storrie
 Charles & Jacqueline McClure
 Mylan Jaixen &
 Catherine McNeil
 Robert D. Mercurio
 Gary & Jean Miller
 Jim & Catherine Miller
 John-Arthur & Trudy Miller, *in*
honor of Catherine and Jim
Miller
 George & Sharon Milukas
 Margaret Mitchell
 Donald & Roswitha Mott
 Dan & Ann Moulton
 Norma Moulton
 Dorothy Marosy
 Patrice Mullin
 C. Twiggs Myers,
in memory of Arthur C. Chase
 MaryEllen J. O'Brien
 Elisabeth O'Connor
 Tom & Kathy Orlando
 Thomas Orlando,
in memory of Peggy Orlando
 Charlotte A. Owens
 Ormsbee Gas Co. Inc.
 Fred & Elaine Panitz
 Judith Papachristou
 Wesley Peterson
 Fred Pomerantz
 David & Marsha Pottle
 Ken & Joan Powers,
in memory of Freddie Martin
 George Raymond & Ida
 Hastings
 Joseph H. & Carol F. Reich
 Alfred M. Richardson
 Frank Murphy & Deborah
 Reich
 Ann M. Riou
 Muriel Rokos
 Mrs. T. C. Romaine, Jr., &
 Family
 Ben Z. Rose
 Jessica Roseman
 Don Freedman & Susan
 Rothschild
 George W. & Kate Rowe
 Peter & Ellen Rowntree
 Ben Hillman & Amy Rudnick
 Mary & Bob Safian

Dr. Marcia Savage & Carol Sica
 Michael Saxton
 Joanne Day Schmidlin
 Charles F. & Libby M. Schmidt
 Norman Schnayer &
 Joyce Freundlich
 Bernie & Shellie Schneider
 William & Judy Schnurr
 Kenneth & Becky Schopp
 Charles & Pauline Schumann
 Gary & Judy Schumer
 Joseph Schwartzman
 Dennis Sears & Rene Wood
 Gilian Shallcross
 Myron & Marcia Sheinberg
 Barbara & Jim Shiminski
 Greig & Christine Siedor
 Susan Silver
 E. Bonnie Silvers
 Evelyn Small,
in memory of Jim Small
 Elizabeth Smith
 David A. Smith, Sr.
 George Smith
 Nik & Sig Spiegel
 Walton E. Stevens, *in memory of*
Capt. Thomas Stevens & Rhoda
 Callender Stevens
 John & Katherine E. Stookey
 Wanda Styka
 Howard J. Swanson
 Stan & Susan Telensky,
in memory of Eleanor Griffiths
 Thomas & Kathleen Tetro
 Robert & Rebecca Thomas
 Ronald & Judith Timm
 Peter & Doris Traub
 Al Trocchi
 Merle & Karen Varney
 Mary Vaughn
 Diana & Henry Vollmer, III
 John & Ada Wall
 Don & Claire Ward
 Paula Wardynski
 Jackie Weaver,
in memory of Henry G. Weaver III
 David & Barbara West
 F. Robert Wheeler, Jr.
 Marion E. Whitman
 John & Marilyn Wightman
 Barry & Martha Williamson
 Elizabeth Wilson
 Arnold & Beverly Winston
 Bill & Lynn Wood
 Don & Nina Worth
 Ron & Veronica Yaple
 Eileen Young,
in memory of Maury Young
 Tom & Susan Young
 Elissa Williams &
 Richard Zimmerman
 Dr. Dorothea Zucker-Franklin

A Celebration of Traditional Music & Dance

The Reveillons! • April 4-5, 2008 • Sheffield, MA



The Reveillons! a traditional Canadian music and dance troupe from Montreal will perform songs and dances based on the amalgam of French, Scotch and Irish styles. *The Reveillons!* philosophy is that "Tradition is not to remake what others did, but to find the spirit in which these things were made."

Friday, April 4, 7:30 pm. From Sheffield, England to Sheffield, MA.

Folk music of England- David Berthiaume of Reveillons! • Folk music of Sheffield- "Dewey Hall Folk Concert Series" and the "4th Saturday Contra Series" have been playing for the dances in Sheffield for 29 years • History of Quebec's Traditional Music- The Reveillons! from Montreal will perform songs and dances based on the amalgam of French, Scotch and Irish styles.

The Friday evening program will take place in Dewey Memorial Hall.

Saturday, April 5, 2-5 pm. **Reveillons! Workshops.**

Step dance, feet as percussion, instruments, fiddle, jaw harp.

The Saturday afternoon program will take place in Dewey Memorial Hall.

Saturday, April 5, 7:30 pm. **Dance and Show The Reveillons!**

The Saturday evening Dance will be held at the Southern Berkshire Regional School

Strategic Planning Session continued from page 5

III. *Synthesis.* The following six ideas were most popular, four of which were interrelated*

** These six ideas will become the priorities of SHS in the next three years.

- Cataloguing the Dan Raymond House Collection
- Reconnecting with area Teachers/Schools*
- Teacher Seminars* and education programs
- Grounds improved and utilized
- Collecting Oral Histories**
- Family Programs**

IV. *Commitment.* Finally, each attendee was asked to personally commit to one of these six areas, the groups formed to become an informal "committee" of sorts. The chairperson of each committee has been bolded.

A. Carrie Smith Lorraine Project

Carrie Smith Lorraine Committee: Joanna and Chris

B. Cataloguing the Dan Raymond House Collection

Collections Committee: Joanna, Philip, Ross, Brian and Lois

C. Collecting/Publishing Oral Histories

Oral History Committee: Marcia, John, Joyce, and Jim

D. Reconnect with School/Teachers

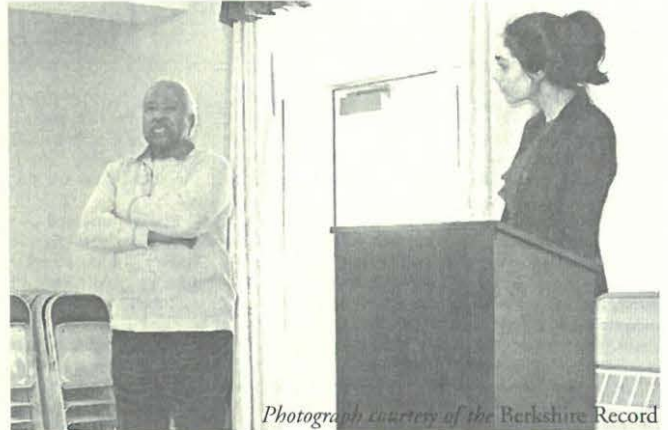
Education Programming Committee: Joyce, Catherine, Dennis, Dorothy, and Harry

E. Grounds Utilization (and Beautification) Project. *Includes development of programs to utilize the DRH & grounds, and Sheffield Town 275th Anniversary programming.*

Outreach Committee: Catherine, Gillian, Joyce, Joanna and Lois

V. *Conclusion.* Each committee was asked to set a date for their first meeting and to report back to the board by March 8th, when the board next meets.

...Sheffield Historical Society



Photograph courtesy of the Berkshire Record

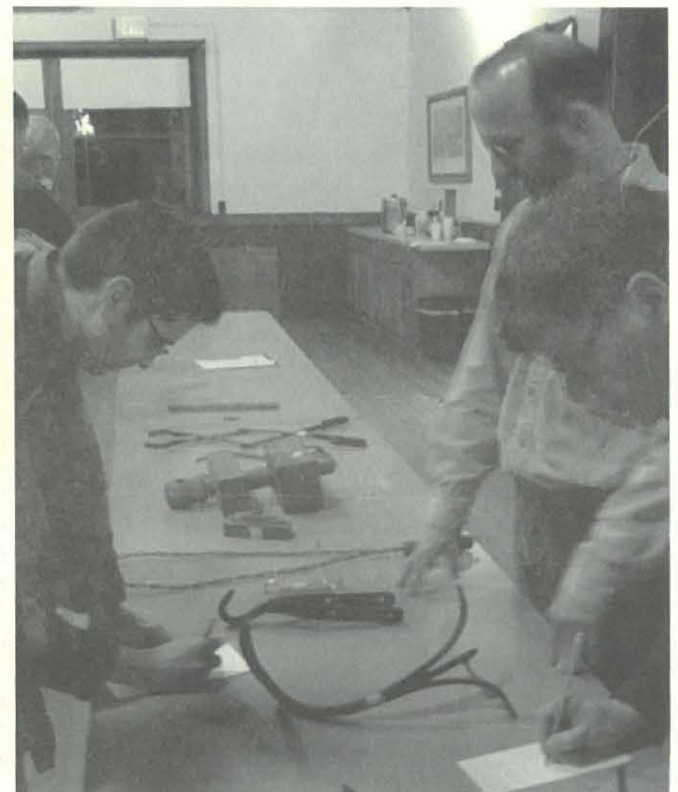
Wray Gunn speaks about local black heritage while Joanna Jennings looks on (above) at the Martin Luther King Day Program which the Society collaborated on in January with the Library and Senior Center. Below, Nancy Race (left) relates her experiences growing up as an African American and John-Arthur Miller (right) honors King with selected choral arrangements.



In October Undermountain School joined the Society for a Spirit Walk and Cemetery tour led by Jim Miller and Joanna Jennings. Above, Catherine Miller stars as Sophia Curtis, a wealthy eccentric socialite while Marcia Brolli (below) talks about life as the wife of Rev. Bradford, the fourth Congregational minister of Old Parish Church. At right top, center and bottom, three more Undermountain students complete grave rubbings.



Karin Sprague of Karin Sprague Stone Carvers (left) joined Society archivist Jim Miller in mid-October for a slide presentation, talk, and cemetery tour. Ms. Sprague spoke about what originally drew her to her craft and the unique artistic process that goes into the creation of each gravemarker. In November, Berkshire Eagle columnist Ruth Bass (center) appeared at the Bushnell-Sage Library at a book talk and signing which the Society co-hosted. Ms. Bass's recent publication, *Sarah's Daughter*, is a historical-fiction novel about a girl's struggle to raise her siblings after their mother's death in 19th century rural New England. Jon McLaren, John Weinstein, and a friend fill in their guesses at Sheffield Historical Society's annual What's It Night (right) held on January 11. While no one guessed the original purpose of each and every historic tool, some members came close and refreshments were offered to all participants alike!



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Gillian Hettinger, *Vice President*
H. Dennis Sears, *Acting Treasurer*
Harry E. Conklin, *Clerk*

Joyce Hawkins
Brian Levinsohn
Philip Detjens
Mark Ziobro

MUSEUM STAFF

Joanna Jennings, *Administrator*
Betty Chapin, *Volunteer Archivist*
James Miller, *Volunteer Archivist*

About the Image Opposite: Footstone. This footstone belongs to Theodosia, the first wife of Rev. Adonijah Bidwell who was the first Congregational minister of Tyringham. The grave marker's singular motif depicts a pair of ladies boots positioned heel to toe. This image captured a grand prize at the 2007 Monterey Cultural Council Photography Show.



IMPRESSIONS OF THE *Bidwell House Museum*

April 4-May 5, 2008

Opening Reception: April 4, 4-6 pm
Gallery Talk: April 18, 7:30 pm
Old Stone Store Gallery

The Sheffield Historical Society



Dan Raymond House Museum • Mark Dewey Research Center
WWW.SHEFFIELDHISTORY.ORG

The Sheffield Historical Society's mission is to promote a wider understanding of the people and events that preceded us in this area, and to preserve and transmit that heritage to current and future generations.

159 Main Street
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Sheffield, MA 01257

Phone: 413-229-2694
E-mail: shs@sheffieldhistory.org

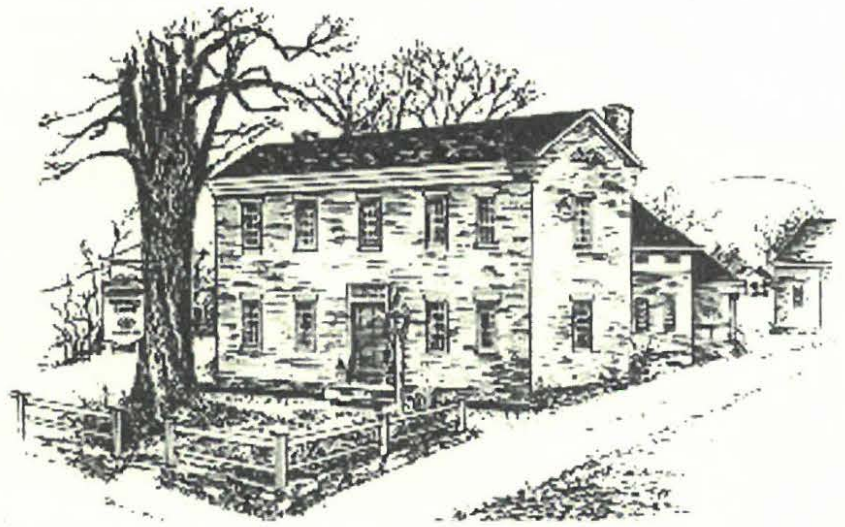
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Old Stone Store is open on weekends,
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Closed January through April.

The Sheffield Historical Society

Late Summer 2008



SHEFFIELD, Frontier Town, Celebrates its 275 Anniversary

On June 21, 2008, the Sheffield Historical Society observed the 275th birthday of our town with an anniversary celebration. The event drew a crowd of 150 people some local residents, some visitors. (Refer to pages 4-5 for a pictorial coverage of the event.) The Society wishes to acknowledge all those who participated, especially the Bottom of the Bucket Band and the Morris Dancers, who invited themselves and rounded out the afternoon with a flourish.

The Sheffield Historical Society also wishes to thank the following underwriters of the Celebration of Sheffield Incorporation on June 22, 1733 at the first community in Berkshire County.

BLUE RIBBON
Sheffield Plastics

RED RIBBON
Carlson Propane
Wheeler & Taylor

WHITE RIBBON
Sheffield Water Co.



Smitty Pignatelli presents Marcia Brolli, Society President, and Julie Hannum, Chair of the town's Board of Selectman, with a certificate honoring Sheffield's 275th Anniversary.

Society Archives Enriched with New Sheffield Quarry Documentation

The research archives of The Society were benefited recently by a significant contribution by two Ashley Falls natives, Natalie Funk and Priscilla Reger. The subject of their contribution is Sheffield quarries, specifically the Ashley Falls quarry that is now the home of Grace Brown.

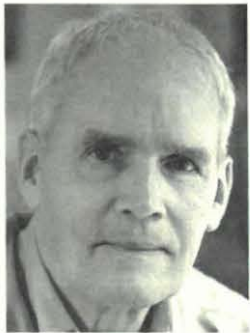
The two volume collection was culled "from thousands of such documents only recently discovered when the remains of the old Southern Berkshire Marble Company were sold." Unfortunately, most of them were in such poor condition that they could not be saved.

According to Natalie and Priscilla, the collection "tells a story of operations from 1899, the date of the earliest handwritten in the

files, to about 1915. A fatal fire destroyed the quarry buildings, halting production of marble slabs for building purposes for government buildings in Albany, NY, and the nation's capital. According to the introduction by the donors, many of the soldiers' markers in Arlington National Cemetery came from this quarry. In later years agricultural lime was produced, but the site closed down shortly after World War II.

The research archives, housed in the Mark Dewey Research Center, is the major repository of Sheffield history. It is open on Mondays and Fridays, 1:30 to 4:00, for topical research, genealogy, and house histories. Trained volunteers are available each day for assistance.

November Program to Remember World War II Invasion of Italy



John Toffey

On November 14, the Sheffield Historical Society will commemorate the sacrifices made by our veterans, particularly in World War II. Our speaker, John Toffey, will discuss and read from his book, *Jack Toffey's War, A Son's Memoir*.

John Toffey is one of four generations of Toffeys who fought in the military. His great-grandfather, John

Sr., earned the Medal of Honor for Valor at Missionary Ridge during the Civil War. His grandfather, John Jr., fought with Pershing in Mexico and retired as a major general in command of the New Jersey National Guard. His father, John III, the subject of this memoir, attained the rank of lieutenant-colonel before his death in Italy in 1944. John IV himself interrupted his studies at Yale to enlist in 1951 during the Korean War, went to Infantry Officer Candidate School, and was a company officer in the U.S., Korea, and Japan.

After his service in the Korean War, Toffey completed his studies at Ohio State University, graduating in 1955 with a degree in English. He has a Master's Degree from Columbia University. Toffey has served on the faculties of the Kent School, the Columbus Academy, Simon's Rock College, and Berkshire School, where he taught English, coached football and baseball, and performed various administrative duties.

John Toffey IV was 13 years old when his father was killed in the hill town of Palestrina, one day before the Allies marched into Rome. Lieutenant-Colonel Jack Toffey had commanded a combat battalion longer than any other officer in the Mediterranean theater.

Only in 1996, when his father's letters were discovered, did John Toffey begin to piece together the story his father "never got to tell." It is a moving account of a young man's journey to know a father who went to war in 1942 and never came back, weaving memories, history, interviews with surviving members of his father's unit, and his father's letters home into a fascinating tale of a family, a war, and the threads that connect them.

Toffey's book also portrays life on the home front in Ohio, where a boy, his sister and his mother waited out the war, scanning newspapers and magazines for news of Dad, and devouring letters full of humor and love for his family and dreams of a good life after the war.

John Toffey's talk and book signing will take place on Friday, November 14, at 7:30 p.m., at Dewey Memorial Hall in Sheffield.

— Joyce Hawkins, Program Chair

Dear Members and Friends,

Summer brings a hectic combination of work and play. And the Sheffield Historical Society has done both. At the Old Stone Store Gallery, we are presently laughing with the "A Serious Look at the Funnies," Paul Banevicius's stunning look at comics through the years. We previously enjoyed the "Red, White, and Blue" exhibit featuring the collection of Stephen and Wendy Leigh, and will end the exhibition season with a look at Rob Robins' work. What talented people Sheffield has attracted!

We've played by celebrating Sheffield's 275th anniversary as a town and holding receptions for each exhibit and, as the summer ends, by gathering at a gracious garden party at the home of Hester Velmans and Peter Cherneff. August 30th we will stroll the gardens, listen to the musical duo, *Contempanissance*, playing classical guitar and flute, and enjoy each other's conversation and company.

As we go into the fall, the program committee, under the able leadership of Joyce Hawkins, has planned a full and varied program for the year. Like last year, the dates, times, and places vary, so please put each event on your calendar now. You'll like the variety. Please join us often.

Joanna Jennings, our administrator, has put the Sheffield Historical Society in the pages of all the local newspapers, on posters all over town (posters which are becoming collectors' items), on CTSB, and in the Shoppers' Guide. I am ever so grateful to her for the success of her first year with us. The office is becoming a busy place-with several of us learning PastPerfect, the museum software which is a data base for the collection and for the membership. Philip Detjens has been the busiest in putting the information from all our handwritten and typed notes into the system, I have been struggling with the membership lists, and by the end of next winter, we should have it well under way.

Thank you for all your support.

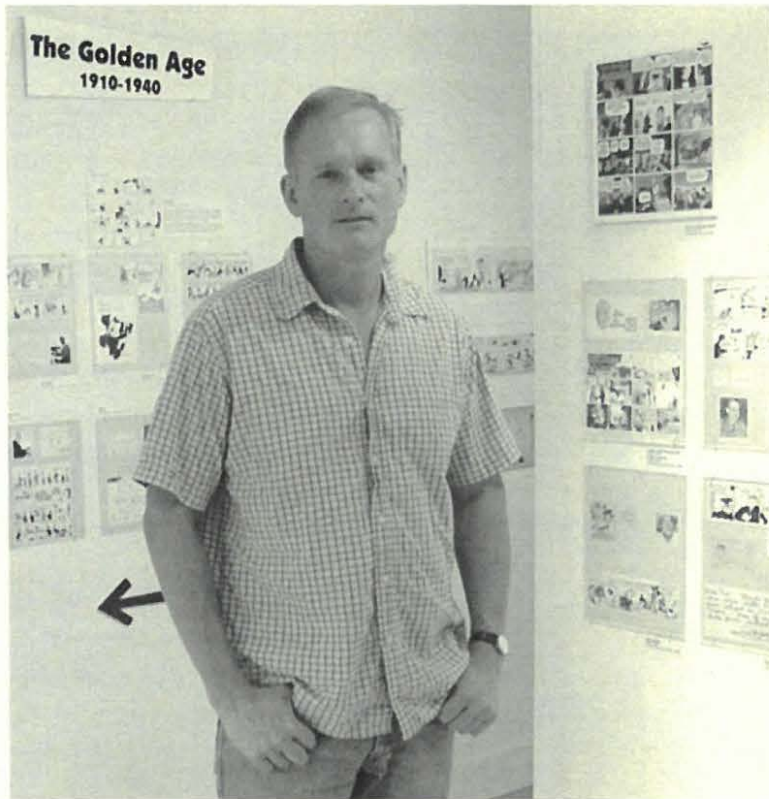
See you in Sheffield,

Marcia Brolli, President



A group of Berkshire School students helped with spring clean-up at the Sheffield Historical Society on Gracious Living Day on April 11.

Spring & Summer Exhibits Remembered...



Paul Banevicius's comic strip exhibit has been a great success—in the guest book there is an entry of Lawrence Klein, Founder & Chairman Emeritus of the Museum of Comic & Cartoon Art in New York City! If you haven't had a chance to see it yet, don't worry, you still have plenty of opportunity. It will remain up through late September. And if you didn't see the article on the front pages of the Eagle look for it in the September issue of Berkshire Living Magazine. Jennings said, "Paul Banevicius has graced our gallery with a top-notch exhibit which is professionally installed and creatively displayed. You learn something of the progression of the comic strip, but what's more is, it's also engaging and fun!"



Above, Norman Hettinger engages Joanna Jennings on some of her "visual narratives" this spring at the opening reception for her photography exhibit Impressions of the Bidwell House Museum. In the interest of teaching people more about her artistic process, Ms. Jennings also held a gallery talk for her exhibit. At right, Georgette & Leonard Bloness also attended the reception.



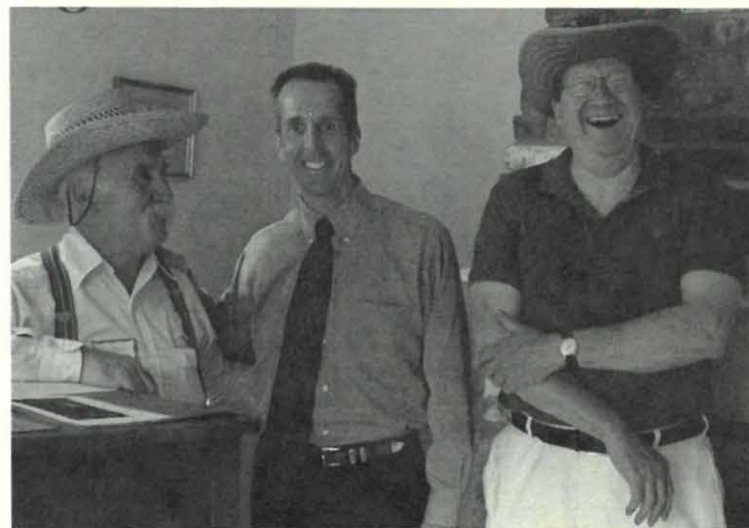
At top, Stephen Leigh stands nose to nose with one of the Uncle Sams in the Red, White & Blue exhibit this summer. Above, Stephen and former Society trustee Mark Ziobro share a toast at the exhibit reception. In the background Mr. Leigh's super patriot waves a banner pledging "Liberty and Justice for All."



275th Anniversary Remembered...



Above, Society Vice-president Gillian Hettinger and her husband Norman stand at the Society entrance drumming up visitation for the 275th Celebration. Below, Jonathan & Lisa Reynolds, Catherine Miller, and Ross Hawkins all turned out dressed for the occasion; Milton Barnum looks on.

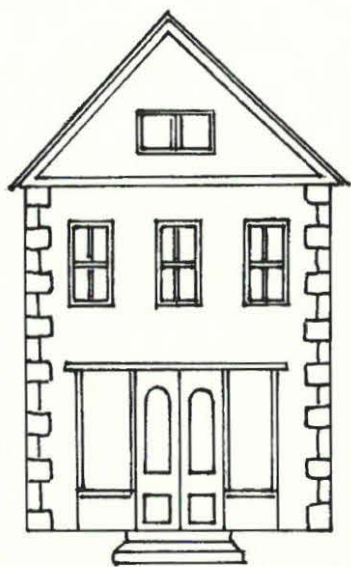


Smitty mingles with Society trustees Harry Conklin and Philip Detjens, who were stationed in the 19th century Law Office. Harry Conklin, Esq. went as Parker J. Hall, Esq. to whom the two-room office once belonged.



At top, Betsy Garcia and Harry Conklin pose in front of some of the various historic structures on the Society grounds. Beneath, at left, Marcia Brolli greets Kathleen Chrisman. At right, Society trustee, Lois Levinsohn, hospitality chair, was one of the busy chefs d'oeuvre at the event. Below, Society Treasurer, Connie Cooper, mans an informational table with various publications the Society has put out over the years. Among the things for sale were both the 250th pictorial history of Sheffield and a newly edited 275th supplement. Ann Barrett flashes a SHEFFIELD license plate as Linda Greenwald looks up.





Upcoming Events & Exhibition Schedule at the Old Stone Store

July 19-September 28.

A History of the Comic Strip: A Serious Look at the Funnies. An exhibit exploring the history of the comic strip through the personal collection of Paul Banevicius featuring original art and over 550 cartoonist sketches. Paul Banevicius is a local resident, faculty in photography, and chair of the Berkshire School Art Department.

Saturday, August 30, 3-6 pm. **The Last of the Summer Wine.**

The Sheffield Historical Society's end-of-summer garden party will be held at the home of Hester Velmans and Peter Cherneff, 778 Hewins Street, Sheffield. This is a fine occasion to enjoy the late-summer bloom of an elaborate garden and property well appointed with history and rural charm in the company of friends. Summer wine and hors d'oeuvres. *Admission is \$30 per person. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Call 413.229.2694 for reservations.*

Saturday, September 20 & Saturday, October 4, 11 am.

Housatonic Heritage Walks: A Walking Tour of Sheffield.

Many well-built historic houses still adorn Sheffield's main street, and this walking tour is designed to point them out and refer briefly to some of the illustrious Sheffield citizens who owned them. For a more detailed history, visitors are referred to the Sheffield Historical Society's Mark Dewey Research Center. *The tour will start at the Sheffield Historical Society, 159 Main Street.*

Friday, September 19, 5-7pm. **Annual Sheffield Spirit Walk.**

Join us in Barnard Cemetery for a theatrical reencounter with Sheffield history as memorable residents from our town's past are recast! Learn their stories as they are vividly brought back to life before you. *Barnard Cemetery is located on Rte. 7 South, opposite Root Lane.*

Saturday, September 20, 4-7pm. **3-Roast Feast.**

Join the Sheffield Historical Society for its annual dinner.

The feast will be held at the American Legion Hall on the Rte. 7 in Sheffield. Call for reservations.

Friday, September 26, 7:30 pm. **Inside the Berkshires.**

David J. McLaughlin will present a book talk & signing. In this unique book 'unfolding' timelines and human interest stories tell the history of our picturesque and culturally diverse Berkshire region. This program will be presented in conjunction with the Bushnell-Sage Library and the Bookloft. *The program will be held at the Bushnell-Sage Library.*

For the latest list of upcoming events visit us on the web at www.sheffieldhistory.org/calendar

(Flip me over for more!)

Saturday, October 4, 12:30 pm. *Traces of the Trade: The Massachusetts Story*

This fall Mass Humanities will be commemorating the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the foreign slave trade, with the newly released film, *Traces of the Trade*, as the centerpiece of 6-7 events around the state that bring the film to each locality as a local story that is part of the Massachusetts economy (fishing, textile, finance, domestic economy.) The programming will feature screenings of a shorter version of the film, paired with archival materials, at a number of historical sites throughout the state that have relevance to the economy of slavery.

The program will be held in Dewey Memorial Hall. The extended program includes a bus tour to the Colonel John Ashley House. For reservations, call (413) 229-8600.

Saturday, October 4-November 2. *The Work of Seymour Robins.*

Seymour Robins is a local designer known for his paper sculpture greeting cards which he designed and produced between the mid-1950s through the late 1990s for a myriad of corporate clients in a commercial series; the artist's personal oeuvre also included an annual holiday series. This retrospective exhibit will focus on Mr. Robins's artistic process as well as his finished work. *This exhibit will have a reception on Saturday, October 18, from 1 to 4 pm.*

**Friday, October 10, 7:30 pm. "Cheerful Despite Their Ragged Clothing:"
Hessian Prisoners in the Berkshires and Beyond.**

Dennis Picard, Director at Storowton Village and previous Director of the Society, will talk about the experience of German prisoners of war during the American Revolution in western Massachusetts and northern Connecticut. The "Hessians," as they were collectively called, served with the British forces under contract to King George III.

The program will be held in Dewey Memorial Hall.

Friday, November 14, 7:30 pm. *John Toffey, author of Jack Toffey's War*

will present this book talk & signing in conjunction with Bushnell-Sage Library in observance of Veteran's Day. In this memoir, Toffey writes of the WW II Allied invasion of Italy where his father was killed. *The program will be held in Dewey Memorial Hall.*

November 8-December 21. *Holiday Marketplace.*

Saturdays & Sundays from 10-2 with occasional extended hours.

Shop for everyone on your list at the Sheffield Historical Society's holiday bazaar. Featuring an array of handmade goods including miniature trees, wreaths, ornaments, jewelry, holiday treats, gifts, raffles. Upstairs holiday tag sale and Old Stone Store markdowns.

The Festival will have special extended hours from 11 to 5 on Black Friday (Nov. 28).

Sunday, December 14, 3-5 pm. *Dan Raymond House Holiday Social.*

Come gather round the festive Keeping Room fireside and enjoy some holiday cheer. Join friends new and old. Music, merriment and more.

Friday, January 9, 7:30 pm. *What's It? Night.*

The items as ever have yet to be determined. Curious? Come find out!

The program will take place in Dewey Memorial Hall.

For the latest list of upcoming events visit us on the web at www.sheffieldhistory.org/calendar

...at the Sheffield Historical Society



Above, the Mark Dewey Research Center was kept open by the Society archivists extraordinaires, Jim Miller and Betty Chapin. Below, the director went as Carrie Smith Lorraine, Sheffield's first woman photographer, to take vintage portrait photographs which the children hand-colored. Below from left to right are some of the results—Eastlynd Bates dressed as a girl from the period; Jonathan & Lisa Reynolds as a Revolutionary Loyalist couple; and Elizabeth Hotaling as herself displaying a ribbon she won at the event.



At top, the Morris Dancers provide entertainment during the celebration. Above, Steven Borns, of CTSB-TV, attends the event with Roberta Wheeler. Steven is in midst of working on a documentary film about the Captain Truman Wheeler House for the Great Barrington Historical Society.



Seymour Robins Exhibit to Open this Fall



Seymour Robins displays one of his paper sculptures he designed between the mid-1950s- the late 1990s. His work will be featured by the Society in a retrospective exhibit curated by Jim Miller and Rene Wood this fall.

The Sheffield Historical Society will present a unique opportunity to view the creative mind of a prolific and talented

graphic designer, Seymour Robins, in an upcoming exhibit of the paper sculptures he created from the mid-1950s through 1998.

Over 75 hanging or standing paper sculpture creations, which include designs for corporate clients, museums, and UNICEF, as well as his own yearly holiday sculptures, will be featured at a retrospective scheduled for October 4-31, 2008. A reception for the artist will be held on Saturday, October 18 from 1-4 PM.

Seymour "Rob" Robins lived on Boardman Street for almost 40 years in the old Wilcox barn, which he completely renovated over the years into his home and studio. His career followed his military service and, beginning in the early 1950's, he was one of Manhattan's most prolific and talented graphic and package designers. Rob's last commission for a paper sculpture was from MOMA in 1998, when his macular degeneration limited his vision. Rob, a lifelong student of vision, was also a major contributor to the field of perception studies at Princeton University.

The Society recently accepted a gift of his collection of his paper sculptures and other graphic design materials. Several of Rob's sculptures are part of the permanent collection of the Cooper-Hewitt Museum in New York City.

Sheffield Historical Society Acknowledges the Council's (MCC) Support

FY 2008 marks the last year in a three-year grant cycle of a Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) Organizational Support Grant that the Sheffield Historical Society was awarded in FY 2006. Throughout the past two years, numerous monthly programs and exhibits were all made possible through the support of the MCC. This year the Society elected to apply the majority of the prestigious \$2,500 award toward the administrator's salary.

The Society administrator is a part-time employee of the Sheffield Historical Society. The Administrator manages Society operations in accordance with the policies and procedures established by the Board of Trustees. Reporting to the president of the Board, her primary responsibility is the day-to-day administration of the Society and its historic seven-building complex, with the primary focus of executing administration, providing communication between the Society, Board of Trustees, and the membership. Secondary focuses include developing educational projects, exhibits,



programming, and preserving the Society's collections. The Society is grateful to MCC for the necessary funding to help maintain the integrity of our organization through the position of administrator.

Another part of the award was used to upgrade the Society's Past Perfect Museum Software from 2.0 to 4.0. This software is recognized by the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) as one of definitive programs used by museum and historical societies across the county. It allows an organization to compile and combine its collections records (archives, library, objects, and photographs) and membership list in one database. The update was long overdue and its purchase has allowed the Society to start the daunting process of digitizing our paper collections inventory.

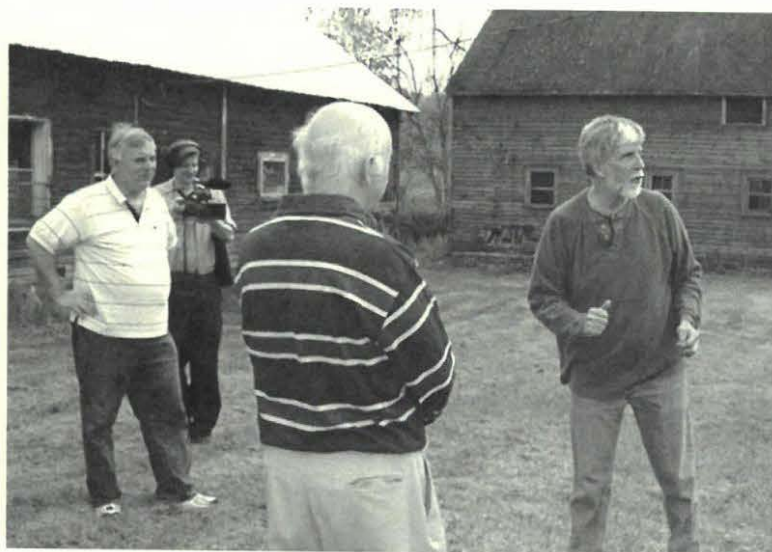
At a strategic planning conference held in FY 2008 the Society was successful in forming a number of committees to report to the Board. This kind of extended governance is vital since the Society underwent a significant staffing change in FY 2007 from a full-time director to a part-time administrator. Because of the staffing transition more responsibilities now fall upon the Board, its active membership, and cadre of volunteers. At the conference it

article continues on page 7

Spring & Summer Program Highlights...



Ruth Green of Green Arts Garden Design in Monterey, MA and head gardener at the Bidwell House Museum prepared a thoughtful powerpoint presentation about heritage garden planting schemes at the Society's March meeting, "Colonial Garden Planning and Planting." On account of Green's following, no doubt, the program was very well attended with garden enthusiasts from Berkshire and Litchfield Counties alike!



Great Barrington Historical Society President, Brian Burke, and Vice-President, Gary Levielle, provide members of the Sheffield Historical Society with a tour of the Truman Wheeler house barns this spring. In the background Steven Borns of CTSB-TV records the tour for use in a documentary film project he has started as part of the GBHS's Capital Campaign to restore their future headquarters.

MCC Acknowledgement article continued from page 6

was agreed that one of the organizational priorities was to bring the Society into the 21st century by the digitization of our paper records. To answer this a collections committee was formed. The Society has set a goal of three years to this project, but the recruit of a collections intern in the future may help expedite this process.

The mission of the MCC is to promote excellence, education, access, and diversity in the arts, humanities, and interpretative sciences in order to improve the quality of life for all Massachusetts residents and to contribute to the economic vitality of our communities. The 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.



Massachusetts Cultural Council

Sheffield Historical Society administration has been made possible, in part, by support from Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



Meanwhile, GBHS trustee James Parrish in full military character regaled the rest of the group with the story of the Wheeler family and their ancestral home.



2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marcia Brolli, *President*
Gillian Hettinger, *Vice President*
Connie Cooper, *Treasurer*
Harry E. Conklin, *Clerk*

Joyce Hawkins
Lois Levinsohn
Philip Detjens
Dennis Sears
Kathy Tetro

MUSEUM STAFF

Joanna Jennings, *Administrator*
Betty Chapin, *Volunteer Archivist*
James Miller, *Volunteer Archivist*

The Society is in the midst of updating our membership database. Please review your name & address, and notify us of any changes!

We are also in the midst of redesigning our website. Please continue to check back for future updates. New developments will include the calendar & special events page with photographic highlights from recent exhibits & programs. Thank you for your patience.

A Serious Look at the Funnies

A History of the Comic Strip



Featuring Original Art & Sketches
from the Collection of Paul Banevicius
July 19-September 28, 2008

The Sheffield Historical Society



Dan Raymond House Museum • Mark Dewey Research Center
WWW.SHEFFIELDHISTORY.ORG

The Sheffield Historical Society's mission is to promote a wider understanding of the people and events that preceded us in this area, and to preserve and transmit that heritage to current and future generations.

159 Main Street
PO Box 747
Sheffield, MA 01257

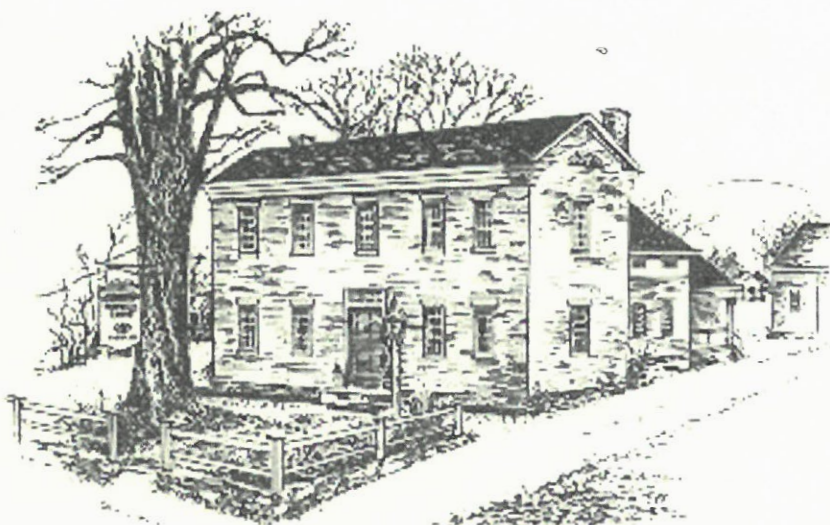
1774 Dan Raymond House is open May-October,
Tuesday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Or by appointment.
Phone: (413) 229-2694 Email: shs@sheffieldhistory.org

Mark Dewey Research Center is open year round,
Monday & Friday, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Or by appointment.
Phone: (413) 229-3682 Email: mdrc@sheffieldhistory.org

Old Stone Store & Gallery is open on weekends, April-December,
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Phone: (413) 229-2287

The Sheffield Historical Society

Spring 2009



Illness & Death in 19th Century Sheffield: Collection of Letters Provides a New Window into Old Times

The Mark Dewey Research Center, the library component of the Society, has recently acquired a group of early 19th century letters written from Sheffield to family members in Connecticut. The worth of this collection is the light it sheds on the town's day-to-day life about 190 years ago. The prevailing topics of concern among the correspondents were health and death, and religion and domestic duties as exemplified by the family of Ralph and Maria Fox Little, local merchants of more than average means. Their place of business was an imposing Greek Revival building, now gone, on the site of present-day Gretta's. The missives, extensively quoted below, retain their original spelling but with modified punctuation added for clarity.

Maria Fox Little was from East Haddam, Connecticut, a daughter of Aaron Fox and his wife Eunice Beebe. She had sisters Eunice, Almira and Teresa, and it was among the four of them that the largest number of letters were written with some to their brother Robert and one to a brother-in-law Brainard Palmer.

It is not to be judged which vividly described death in the letters is the most horrendous, that of Ruth Kellogg, age 95, the oldest resident, or that of Almira's new born baby.

Mrs. Kellogg was burned to death alone in her room—"supposed she fell in the fire though they found her some distance from it, her clothes burnt off, her gold beads melted on her neck."

In the baby's death, Almira writes to her mother, "the babe had fits from Friday till sometime on Tuesday. The family & neighbors had no expectation of its life from one moment to another. . . . During the day past it has had several fits. . . . I thought it had done breathing entirely & supposed twas torn from the arms of its fond friends & to kinder arms received but this idea could not prevent my grief." The following day the letter continues, "[T]he babe is much as twas yesterday has turns



Two post Civil War era portraits from the Society archives help bring the letters to life. At left, Dr. Silas Root Kellogg, is the physician referenced in the letters. At right, an 1860 portrait of Lucius and Lucretia Little. Lucius, also referenced in the letters, was the son of Ralph and Maria Fox Little. He and his wife maintained the family business, L. Little, a dry goods store which remained in the family until the building was destroyed in a 1905 fire. The couple's son, William H., occupied the Dan Raymond House with his wife, Clara P. Little as of 1884. They were the last long-term owners of the house before the Sheffield Historical Society established its headquarters on the premises.

of looking purple or almost black & I cannot discern any appearances of its breathing for several minutes. . . . [I]t has not tried to suck since yesterday morn but I try feeding it every time I think twill swallow. . . . During the night it has appeared if every breath & groan would be its last. Seeing it seems to melt the hardest heart. . . . All who see it think it would be a relief too have it breath[e] its last, agonies are so great." Then, the following day, "The conflict is now ended and the lovely babe is now sleeping the sleep of death & this is now a house of weeping and sorrow.

Article continued on page 2

Sheffield Historical Society

2008-9 ANNUAL APPEAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Thank you all for your support! We have entered your names into a new data base. Please let us know if you would like your name entered in another way or if your name has been omitted.

John & Emily Alexander
Ginger Alexander
Allen & Karin Altman
Doreen & Walter Atwood
Fred & Betty Bangs
Ann Barrett
Trumbell Barrett
Beth Bartholomew,
in memory of Dana Bartholomew
Betty & Arthur Batacchi
Barbara & Malcolm Bayliss
Timothy Beard
Paul Benjou & P.J. Bradley
Blanche & Bill Bennett
Robin Berther
Jean W. Blackmur
Steven Borns
Marcia Brolli
Joan Brooks
Grace Wallace Browne
Bill Browne
Patrick & Barbara Burns
Grace Campbell
Tony Carlotto
Patricia Carlson
Edwin H. & Barbara Carr, Jr.
Sharon Casdin
Neal B. & Julie Chamberlain
Elizabeth Chapin
Elliott & Fern Chapnick
Peter Cherneff & Hester Velmans
Kathleen & Neil Chrisman
Constance Cincotta
Ursula & Walter Cliff
Kent Clow, III
Christopher & Amanda Coenen
Noel & Baukje Cohen
Paul & Carrol Collins
Abbott Combes
Sally Cook
Holly Coon
Constance Cooper
Dorothy & Peter Crockett,
in memory of Howard Crockett
Jean E. Curtis
Charlotte H. Dallett
Tony & Dana Dapolito
Bob & Ann Dean
Nancy & Dwight Dellert
Philip & Susan Detjens
Dorothy & William DeVoti
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony J. Dibrita
Thomas & Cynthia Dixon
John & Audrey Downie
Tom Driver & Anne Barstow,
in memory of Ellie Gilligan

Charles A. DuCharme,
*in honor of Marion & Dorothy of
Slaveigh House Days*
Frances Eastburn
Norma Edsall & Alice Corbin
Margit & Branch Elam
Patricia & Peter Elsbach
Nancy B. Emery
Michael Farmer
Susan & Martin Fischer
Inez Flinn
Dr. Dorothea Franklin
Don Freedman &
Susan Rothschild
Pattison & Carolyn Fulton
Phil & Betsy Garcia
Frank Garretson &
Helen Bray-Garretson
Rene Gibson
Ruth A. & Susan Gillette
John & Elsie Gilligan
Frederic Gordon
Richard Greene
William Grief &
Leonard Graziano
Edmund A. &
Arlene P. Grossman
Marguerite Gulick
Lovina Gulotta,
in memory of Santi J. Gulletta
Wray Gunn & Cora Portnoff
John & Joan Hanlon
Tema & Monte Harnik
Joyce & Ross Hawkins
Esther Heffernan
Claire Height
Gillian & Norman Hettinger
Caitlin Hotaling
Susan & Joseph Hurlburt
James & Donna Hurley
Virginia M. Jackson-Howden
Katherine Ness & John James
Robert Jenter & Andrea Scott
Mary & Charles Joch, Jr.
Ursula Kilner
James & Beverly Kimball
Beverly Kradel
Jim Lamme & Wendy Linscott
Allison Lassoe
Dr. & Mrs. George M. Lazarus
Alice Leason
Gary LeBeau
Susan & Philip Lebowitz
Robert D. Ledlie
Lou & Pat Levine
Brian & Lois Levinsohn

Continued from front page

It is a very pretty featured child & appears lovely in death."

The family also endured near-death trauma. Sister Eunice learned in a letter of January 1817, "My Babe has had ill turns all winter. [H]e had something gather in his head which discharged at his ear. [H]e didn't appear sick but crying as if in distress. [W]e thought he was cross sometimes-till the cause appeared. He has since had a bad humor in his head & neck but has now got about well of that. His physician calls it the rickets in the bowels. I am in hopes he is better. [H]e has days of looking very frail & seems to be in pain & nights that he sleeps but little. We have been much concerned for him & think him not out of danger now. . . ." And in the same letter, "All this time I want to be talking to you about sister Teresa health, her babe & yours & etc so much I know not how to begin my inquiries. I want to see T[eresa] very much but would give more if Doct. Delamatter could see her in the critical state which her health is now in. He is exceedingly skilled in intricate cases where every physician around has failed. He frequently gets a correct idea of diseases."

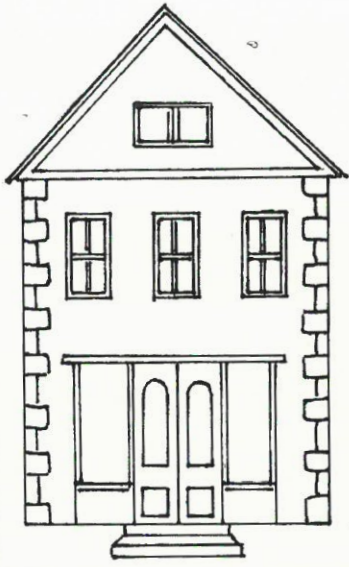
Accidents also were part of life in the Little family. Maria reports to her sisters, "[Son] Robert runs away. We have no fence to keep him in. It is very dangerous for such children in the street where there is so much travel. A few days since a traveller in a covered loaded wagon drove against him, threw him down. The wheel passed several inches over his hip and bowels cornerways & backed off without breaking any bones. His pa fortunately saw the wagon from the store door. When I was near him ran & called to the driver but he didn't hear him nor see Robert 'till the instant his pa reached him. It was the most narrow escape I ever saw or heard of."

Silas R. Kellogg, a Sheffield physician, was closely connected with the family. He gave Maria's brother, Robert Fox, the following medical advice. "Should you continue at [medical] school, let me caution you against neglecting to take a proper degree of exercise. Without this, you'll have the dyspepsia, blue devils, vapors, & horrors all upon you." He continued on about the Little family's medical problems, "I have no less than three patients in their family now, tho' none of them much sick. Mrs. L has a pain in her side, Robt [Little] has a badly inflamed eye & the babe coughs & belches & wheezes & sneezes."

Epidemics added further concerns for Maria's family. "My family has for some time past been in a situation to require more than ordinary care & concern. . . . They are just now getting over the measles. Lucius first took it. Marietta, Robert & Frank took it of him. Next Ralph, Anna & Augusta & George the eldest had it hardest as is common & are not as soon over it. We called a physician twice. Have not been as well myself since in consequence of the fatigue. I expect have had much of the hardest head-ache & distress in my left side." And another epidemic was "...cholera in almost every city & many of the towns around us."

As with all Society archives, the letters are available for research or simply out of interest. While we have a number of letters in our collection, none are more important than these with respect to the lives of early 19th century residents.

The letters also provide a new window into interpreting how life was lived at the Sheffield Historical Society before its establishment. As noted in the photograph caption on front page, third generation Littles occupied the Dan



Upcoming Events & Exhibition Schedule at the Old Stone Store

Friday, February 13, 7:30 pm.

Edison Meets Victor or Nipper's Valentine.

Classical singer John-Arthur Miller will speak about the early history of music recording technologies. Bring along your Valentine to enjoy love songs, learn the difference between "hill-and-dale" and lateral cut, and, finally, meet "Nipper."

The program will be held in Dewey Memorial Hall.

Saturday, February 21, 9:00 am. **Board Retreat.**

The Sheffield Historical Society board and extended board will follow-up on the process of last year's strategic plan. Admission is by invitation only. *The retreat will be held at Landmark Volunteers.*

Friday, March 13, 7:30 pm. **Sheffield Planting Schemes.**

Local horticulturist, writer, and lecturer, Ron Kujawski, author of the popular "Gardener's Checklist" *Berkshire Record* column and the *Berkshire Eagle's* "Berkshire Garden Journal," will present a power point presentation on plants and flowers that will thrive in your Sheffield garden.

The program will be held in Dewey Memorial Hall.

Friday, April 10, 7:30 pm. **The Portraiture of Carrie Smith Lorraine.**

Joanna Jennings, the Society Administrator, will present a power point presentation focusing on the life, times, and work of Carrie Smith Lorraine, Sheffield's first woman photographer.

The program will be held in Dewey Memorial Hall.

Friday, May 8, 7:30 pm. **Confessions of a Revolutionary Loyalist Couple.**

Jonathan & Lisa Reynolds, Revolutionary reenactors extraordinaires, in a program TBA.

The program will take place in the Dan Raymond House.

Friday, June 12, 7:30 pm. **Annual Meeting & The Battle of Midway.**

Grieg Siedor will speak in commemoration of the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Midway at the Society's Annual Meeting. *The program will take place in Dewey Memorial Hall.*

Friday, June 26-Sunday, July 12. **Five Friends Art Exhibit.**

Walter Bogard, Hans Heuberger, Sean Ryder, Lois Ryder, and Lois Van Clef return for their fourth year to the Old Stone Store with new and recent artwork. The exhibit will correspond with the Sheffield Art League's Annual Juried Art Competition in Dewey Memorial Hall, where more of the friends' work will be featured.

The exhibit will be displayed in the Gallery at the Old Stone Store.

The Gallery will be open Fridays, 11-6 pm, Saturdays & Sundays, 11-4 pm.

The exhibit will have an opening reception, Saturday, June 27, from 1-3 pm.

This schedule is subject to change. Please visit us on the web at www.SheffieldHistory.org for the latest information.

February 2009

Dear Friends,

What an amazing year we have had! This organization has the most talented and hard-working staff and volunteers. We have much to be proud of. Since the last newsletter in June, we have been busy.

We celebrated the 275th anniversary of Sheffield's founding in a party on the grounds, held a public program every second Friday for ten months of the year, entertained at a reception for each of the Stone Store Gallery openings, joined the spirits at the Center Cemetery in October, celebrated the holidays in December at the Dan Raymond House, researched countless records in the Mark Dewey Research Center, and maintained the property, enjoying our new visibility thanks to the completion of the town hall parking lot.

We've held three fund-raisers: the End of the Summer Garden Party at the home of Hester Velmans and Peter Cherneff, the Three-Roast Feast in September, and the two-month long Festival for the Holidays. In addition, you have been generous in your membership levels.

The Stone Store Gallery rose to new heights. The season ended with Rob Robins' exhibit in a retrospective of an amazing career which brought together his family, his friends from Sheffield and Kimball farm, and examples of his work that even he hadn't seen for years. Joanna Jennings' exhibit, "Impressions of the Bidwell House Museum," started the season in April with great visual images in her photography. In May and June we were stunned by the "Red, White, & Blue," featuring in large part the collection of Stephen and Wendy Leigh. This combination of historical and whimsical and truly fine art following the theme gave great delight to attendees. From July-September, we saw Paul Banevicius's remarkable collection of comic strip art. Presented chronologically, it was a true history of the form.

One of the highlights of the winter has been the purchase of the Little letters (see the front page article by Jim Miller) which have added great depth to our collection and a new understanding of their residence, the Dan Raymond House.

In the near future, as a cost-saving measure, Joanna Jennings will be moving into the upstairs apartment of the Dan Raymond House. We welcome her to Sheffield as a neighbor. The Annual Appeal for 2009-2010 is almost ready to be mailed. It is important for us to have your membership and partnership in telling Sheffield's story.

See you in Sheffield,
Marcia Brolli

Feature article concludes

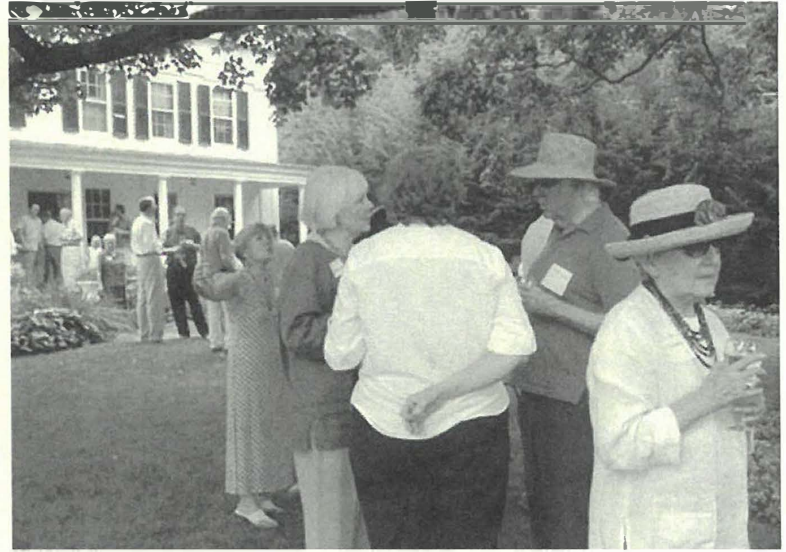
Raymond House in the late nineteenth century.

According to Gregory Farmer, who completed a detailed history of the Dan Raymond House for the Society in 1985, "The Littles seemed to have appreciated the historic value of the brick house and were careful to preserve its character." He notes that, "William H. Little...should receive some attention. By recognizing the historical importance of the old house, Little aligned himself with the growing antiquarian movement in New England. Much of what is known about New England towns and

many of the collections of local historical societies are a direct result of the early antiquarians." If Little's efforts didn't receive proper recognition before, Sheffield history can no longer overlook his presence in this old house both in the flesh and in spirit. The letters bind the Little lineage with that of the Sheffield Historical Society in a direct record which Little started and which the Society preserves, promotes, and transmits.

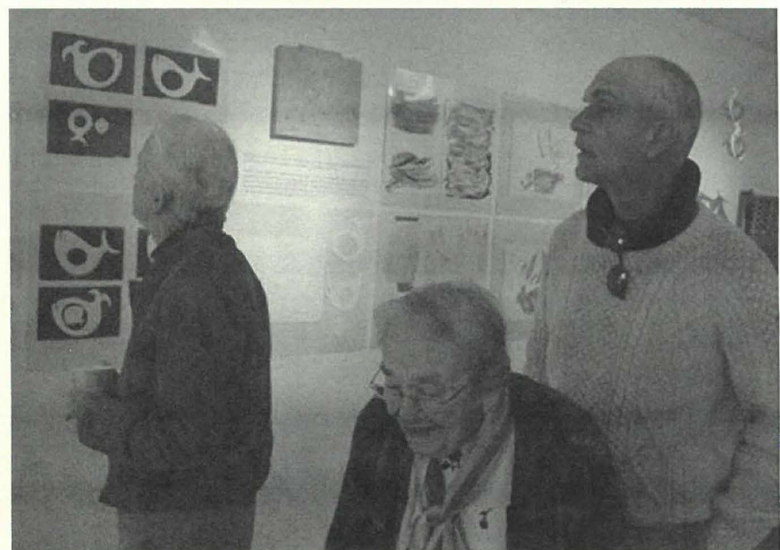
—James Miller, *Volunteer Archivist*

The Society Summer & Fall 2008 Program...

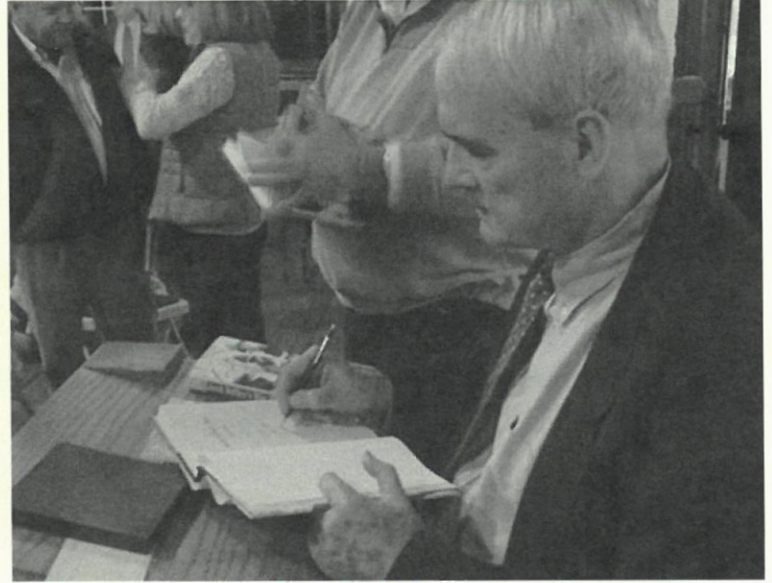


The Paper Sculptures & Other Works by Rob Robins exhibit drew a contingent of visitors, including two bus loads of friends from Kimball Farms and the artist's extended family. The exhibit, which was curated by René Wood, featured an explanation of the creative process, a display of the collection, commercial applications, and other design memorabilia from Rob's prodigious career. Opposite, Rob Robins seated beside the exhibition booklets he designed for the exhibit. Below, at left, Rob's daughter speaks with a guest. In the foreground are some of the paper sculptures on display and in the background, in the photos at left and right, are the graphic arts & die cutting processes explained.

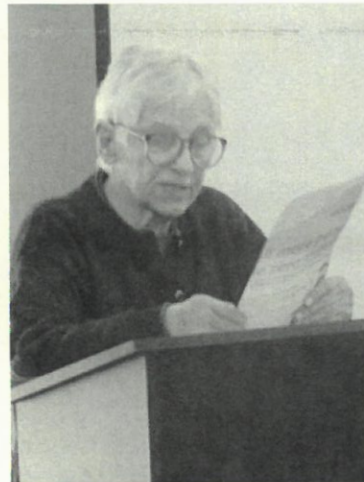
The Last of the Summer Wine garden party was a success (above.) Above left, an exotic Indian umbrella contributed to the shelter provided by the branches of a great old sugar maple which rises above the gardens of the Burrell homestead, presently owned by Hester Velmans and Peter Cherneff, who graciously hosted the party. Though rain threatened, the storms held off for the duration of the Labor Day weekend event. Opposite, Marcia Brolli and Nina Worth man the admission table.



Our Winter 2008-9 Program Continued...



Above, the Society hosted John Toffey at its November meeting in a book talk & signing of his recent WWII memoir *Jack Toffey's War*. Below, Jessica Roseman and Betty LeGeyt address Martin Luther King, Jr. at the annual commemorative program in conjunction with Bushnell-Sage Library, while (beneath) the granddaughters of Patricia & Peter Elsbach sing from the King hymn, "Let There Be Peace," which John-Arthur Miller led with a piano accompaniment by Jessica Roseman.



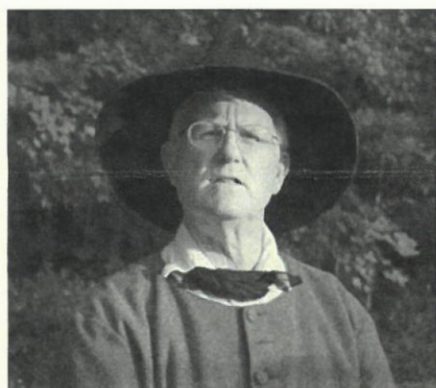
At top, Philip Detjens lights the tinned iron chandelier in the Dan Raymond House keeping room at the Holiday Party, while Brian Levinsohn keeps company with Connie & Doug Logan. Below, Joyce Hawkins and Harry Conklin participate in the holiday spirit. Not pictured is Lenny Graziano who returned on keyboard for the occasion.





Photos by Alan Papsun & Gary Schurer

Catherine Miller steals the show at the **2008 Sheffield Spirit Walk** with her stellar portrayal of C. Catherine Root Leonard (1812-1907), a tactful invalid woman who lived on to become the "oldest woman in Sheffield." Below from left to right, Grieg Sedor as John Pell (1697-1758); Lynn Wood as Sally Bronson (1796-1877); Neal Chamberlain as Levi Glezen (1775-1842); Ethan Chamberlain as Daniel Bush (1754-1840); Lisa Reynolds as Mary Doten (1770-1843); and Jean Emberlin as Mary Canfield (1773-1857). Not pictured are Jonathan Reynolds as Dan Raymond (1736-1809) and Joanna Jennings as Eunice Hickock (1750-1822).



AA 08-09 Contributors continued from page 2

Caroline Lindeman
Douglas & Candida Logan
Susan Lushing,
in memory of Wallace Kaminsky
Alice Lustig
Jon MacClaren &
Christopher B. Sink
Sue & Bob MacVeety,
in memory of Floyd Woodbeck & Clarence Martin
Marian & Antonio Malnati
Norman & Barbara Margolis
Dorothy Marosy
Barbara Martin
Shirley Martin
Mark H. Massini
Jim & Catherine Miller
Donald & Roswitha Mott
Dan & Ann Moulton
Norma Moulton
Istar Mudge
Patrice Mullen
C. Twiggs Myers,
in memory of Arthur C. Chase & Alice Ann Chase
Elisabeth O'Connor
Walter & Gail Orenstein
Thomas Orlando
Rena Orner
John & Charlotte A. Owens
Judith Papachristou
Dan & Andrea Patel
Richard Pearce &
Nancy O. Donahue
Wesley Peterson
Susan & Ted Pitman
Fred Pomerantz & Ruth Kolbert
Marsha & David Pottle
Ken & Joan Powers,
in memory of Freddie Martin
George Raymond &
Ada Hastings
Doris & Dick Richardson
Frank E. Richardson &
Kimba Wood
Ann Riou
Muriel Rokos
Eli Romaine & Family
Ben Rose
Jessica Roseman
Stephen Rosenheck
Constance Rova
Ellen & Peter Rowntree

Annie Ryder
Anthony D. Sabatelli,
in memory of C. David & Daniel Sabatelli
Michael Saxton
Mark Schaffer &
David Goldman
Joanne Schmidlin
Libby & Charles Schmidt
Shellie & Bernard Schneider
Judy Schnurr
Becky & Ken Schopp
Pauline & Carl Schumann
Gary & Judy Schurer
Dennis Sears & Rene Wood
Bob & Ann Shanks
Marcia & Myron Sheinberg
Barb & Jim Shiminski
Christine & Grieg Sedor
E. Bonnie Silvers
Evelyn Small
Betsy Smith
Dave Smith, Sr.
George T. Smith
Dennis & Kathy Staropoli
Walton E. Stevens,
in memory of Thomas & Rhoda Stevens & Zebulon
Appy & John Stookey
Hope & Howard Swanson
Marcel & Millie Tenenbaum
Kathy & Tom Tetro
Rebecca & Robert Thomas
Judith & Ron Timm
Peter Traub
Al Trocchi
Rosemary & Arthur Uffner
Sabina Ullrich
Karen & Merle Varney
Loet & Edith Velmans
Bruno & Olga Veronesi
Paula Wardynski
Elsie West
F. Robert Wheeler, Jr.
Marion Whitman
Marilyn & John Wightman
Sandra Wijnberg
Joe & Darleen Wilkinson
Martha & Barry Williamson
Lynn & Bill Wood
Nina & Don Worth
Richard Zimmerman &
Elissa Williams

Hey! Would you like to join us too?
The 2009 Sheffield
Spirit Walk
needs the talent
of YOU!



2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marcia Brolli, *President*
Gillian Hettinger, *Vice President*
Connie Cooper, *Treasurer*
Harry E. Conklin, *Clerk*

Joyce Hawkins
Lois Levinsohn
Philip Detjens
Dennis Sears
Kathy Tetro

MUSEUM STAFF

Joanna Jennings, *Administrator*
Betty Chapin, *Volunteer Archivist*
James Miller, *Volunteer Archivist*

Please help the
Society today to
GO GREEN
tomorrow by
subscribing to
our e-mailing list!

The Sheffield Historical Society



Dan Raymond House Museum • Mark Dewey Research Center
WWW.SHEFFIELDHISTORY.ORG

The Sheffield Historical Society's mission is to promote a wider understanding of the people and events that preceded us in this area, and to preserve and transmit that heritage to current and future generations.

159 Main Street
PO Box 747
Sheffield, MA 01257

Phone: 413-229-2694
E-mail: shs@sheffieldhistory.org

1774 Dan Raymond House is open weekdays,
Tuesday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Or by appointment.

Mark Dewey Research Center is open weekdays,
Monday & Friday, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. or by appointment.
Phone: 413-229-3682. Email: mdrc@sheffieldhistory.org

Old Stone Store is open on weekends,
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Closed January through April. Phone: 413-229-2287

The Sheffield Historical Society

Winter/Spring 2010



There's Something "New" at the Historic 1774 Dan Raymond House

For 28 years since its restoration and preservation, the Sheffield Historical Society's Dan Raymond House has been open to the public with permanent room-setting displays appropriate for the period of the historic structure. For that duration, the exhibits of 18th century home life have remained largely unchanged. The furnishings are appropriate for teaching children history through the artifacts, and accurately displayed for scholars and visitors to view and learn; however, because the theme and composition has remained largely unchanged over the years, there is a resulting lack of interest to attend a guided tour more than a few times.

During the Society's February '09 Planning Retreat an idea was presented to re-open the Dan Raymond House for public tours of the historic museum house with a "new" twist: in an active partnership with local antiques dealers, the museum house could offer a wealth of opportunity for changing exhibitions of period furniture and accessories. This will be mutually beneficial for the antiques dealers and for the Society. The Berkshires have been a long-standing destination in the ongoing hunt for antiques, and while the antiques dealers stand to gain added exposure for their merchandise by being credited in the captions for the objects on loan, the Society will have access to almost unlimited resources for display.

All parties would benefit from the press generated by such collaboration. Additionally, visitors to the DRH museum would be encouraged to frequent the area antiques shops; likewise, the antiques dealers would encourage their clients to view the period furniture displayed in room settings in the DRH. The co-operative effort to bolster renewed interest in the DRH museum will be multi-faceted with involvement from the community, local businesses and SHS members. Time and energy will be involved; however, the endeavor is essentially cost-free.

When each Sheffield antiques dealer was initially polled about



A rarely seen view of the Dan Raymond House during the Little family's residency (1884-1945). In a 1985 historical report completed for the Society by Gregory Farmer, Farmer notes that "the Littles seem[ed] to have appreciated the historic value of the brick house and were careful to preserve its character." While the house was in good condition, the Society elected to restore its original Colonial lines, removing the Victorian sun porch, south-facing bay window, and alcoves over the ell addition. At this time, the roof was also raised over the kitchen and the burning room added inside.

loaning a variety of antique objects for display in the DRH, the response was overwhelmingly positive and enthusiastic. Many even offered to loan items from their personal collections. Several attended preliminary meetings to view the rooms, to discuss participation, to hear general ideas about working together, and to learn of the theme of the first exhibition which is planned to open in May 2010.

The Society's recent acquisition of nearly two dozen early-19th century letters, written by members of the Little family, will be the focus of the new Dan Raymond House exhibition.

Significance of the Little Family Letters

The collection of handwritten letters, to and from the family of Ralph and Maria Fox Little, is believed to be the earliest extant documentation of early 19th century life in the town of Sheffield. Their worth sheds light on the prevailing topics of the day—health, death, religion, and domestic duties, with an underlying yearning for communication and kinship. Thirty years of family letters offers insight into daily life beginning in 1807.

The letters will be on public view for the first time during the new DRH exhibit. Poignant excerpts with corresponding vignettes on loan from area antiques dealers will be displayed in room settings, along with local artists using their choice of medium to create a contemporary visual context for understanding select passages.

Additionally, a separate special exhibition at the Old Stone Store will dovetail with the new DRH exhibit. During the month of June, *The ABCs of Letter Writing - the History and Art of 19th Century Correspondence* will focus on a retrospective of writing and related items of communication, again on loan from antiques dealers and other members of the community. The Little family letters and other early handwritten letters will be on display along with items related to calligraphy, fountain pens, inkwells, stamp collecting, etc., and a selection of samplers, school desks, and writing tables.

Dan Raymond House History

The Dan Raymond House was built circa 1774 of homemade brick, believed to be fired on the site. It originally consisted of a north and south parlor on the first floor and a garret upstairs. Cooking was likely conducted in an attached structure on the back of the house which was replaced by an ell addition at a later date. At the time of its construction, Mr. Raymond was referred to as a “notorious” and “cunning” character and his home was decried as “extravagant.” In the present day it is considered an unpretentious and classic-styled late-18th century brick colonial. Except for the added ell, the house is nearly the same as it was during the American Revolution.

By mid-1850s the house had been extended with the addition of a large keeping room, buttery and burning room on the first floor, and a second staircase was built, as the garret became a full second story with two bedroom chambers upstairs.

The Dan Raymond House was purchased by two Society members in the 1970s, and they held it until the SHS raised the money to buy the property*. In 1981 The Society undertook

Locally-quarried Marble Traced to New Britain, Connecticut Church



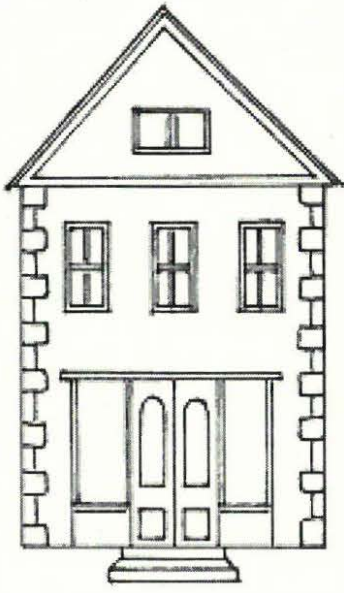
This past summer the Mark Dewey Research Center, the library and reference arm of the Society received an inquiry from the First Lutheran Church of the Reformation in New Britain, CT. Interested in being listed on the Connecticut Register of Historic Places, their researcher wanted to track down undocumented lore that the church was built of marble from the Ashley Falls Marble Company quarry. Were we, they wanted to know, able to find any documentation to substantiate that story?

From our marble quarry archives, greatly enhanced through the generosity of Natalie Funk and Priscilla Rueger, we were able to provide a positive answer. From company correspondence given by Natalie and Priscilla, the Center was able to tell the church, then known as the Svenska Lutherska Maria-Kyrkan, that the marble, indeed, had originated in the Ashley Falls by supplying a company letter that read, in part, “We quarry and finish the marble even to the finest carved work.... Some of the most prominent buildings erected from our product include the ... Swedish Lutheran Church, New Britain, Conn.”

The 1906 structure, on Franklin Square Park in New Britain is iconic Gothic in design. The towers lost their crop-topped spires in the 1938 hurricane but the building is otherwise unchanged.

—Jim Miller, *Society Archivist*

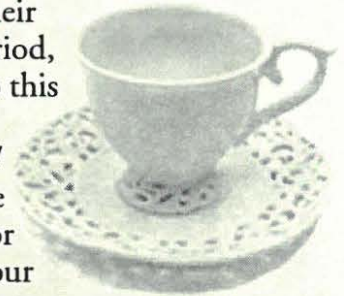
Upcoming Program Events & Exhibitions at the Old Stone Store



Friday, February 12, 7:30 pm. **A Colonial Tea Party & Sampler**

To boycott the heavy tax placed on British import teas, colonists learned to substitute "independence teas" which were herbal infusions derived from plants that they would have had growing in their gardens. Coffee also became popular during this period, and remains the preferred brew among Americans to this day. Gillian Hettinger, of Sheffield and New Jersey, literature teacher, scholar, and frequent *Sheffield Times* contributor, will host this program. Come learn what our ancestors would have been served for tea courtesy of Harney's & Sons Fine Teas. Bring your own tea cup and try a taste of each to see if you would have liked them!

The program will be held in Dewey Memorial Hall.



Remember to participate by bringing your own teacup!

Friday, March 12, 7:30 pm. **Plants that will Thrive in Your Garden, Part II**

Local horticulturist, writer, and lecturer, Ron Kujawski, author of the popular "Gardener's Checklist" *Berkshire Record* column and the *Berkshire Eagle's* "Berkshire Garden Journal," returns to continue his power point presentation on perennials and annuals that will thrive in your Sheffield garden.

The program will be held in Dewey Memorial Hall.

Friday, April 9, 7:30 pm. **Historic Paint Colors**

This illustrated lecture will present an overview of the most popular New England architectural styles and their historical paint colors from colonial times through the 20th century. Jacqueline Connell is an architectural and landscape consultant and museum educator. She has consulted with owners of historic properties throughout New England as well as New York and New Jersey. She has presented lectures on architectural and landscape topics for historical societies, museums, and civic organizations such as Strawberry Banke, Mystic Seaport, Newport Museum of Art, and the High Museum in Atlanta.

The program will be held in Dewey Memorial Hall.

Saturday, April 17, 5-7:30 pm. **Spectacular Pasta Dinner**

Homemade pasta dinner with an "all-you-can-eat" pasta bar featuring all-time favorite meat and vegetarian pasta dishes. Salad, dessert, ice tea, coffee and tea included. Wine, beer and soft drinks available through the American Legion. Adults and takeout: \$10; children ages 3-10: \$5; children under 3: free. Dinner will also feature a Chinese Auction.

The dinner will take place at the American Legion Hall, Rte. 7, Sheffield.

Saturday, May 1—Sunday, June 6. **Voices from the Fields: The Family Farms of Sheffield**

In honor of Sheffield Land Trust's 20th Anniversary, this exhibit will celebrate Sheffield's current and historic farms as a vital part of our community, culture, beauty and economy. The exhibit will showcase highlights from a larger collaborative oral history project undertaken by the Society, the Land Trust, and

This schedule is subject to change. For the latest information, visit www.sheffieldhistory.org

many volunteers who are interviewing families and farmers. Also featured will be many photographs, including from the Society's archives and from family collections. While the exhibit will only be able to display a small portion of the information and photographs gathered, the full extent of the material will become part of the Society's archives on our town's agricultural history.



SAVE THE DATES!

Saturday, May 1—Sunday, October 31, 2010

The Little Family & 19th Century Correspondence

A newly acquired collection of 19th century letters written from Sheffield by members of the Little family will be related to the Dan Raymond House, where a later generation of the family lived. A tableau installation of period furnishings provided by local antiques dealers will complete the scene. Come learn how the letters provide a new window into old times and behold the parlors of the Museum utterly transformed!

The exhibit will be in the Dan Raymond House parlors.

Friday, May 14, 7:30 pm. **The Home Front: Sheffield During WWII**

Society trustee and avocational WWII historian, Greig Siedor, will give a talk on the impact of the War on daily life in Sheffield based on information gathered from the Society archives. Members of the community will also be invited to share their photos, memorabilia, and recollections. For more information about this program, see article on page 5. *The program will be held in Dewey Memorial Hall.*

Saturday, June 12—Sunday, July 11

ABC's of Letter Writing: The History & Art of 19th Century Correspondence

A Retrospective exhibit of writing and related objects of communication, on loan from local antiques dealers and other members of the community which references the exhibit in the Dan Raymond House Museum. The Little family letters and other early handwritten letters will be on display along with items related to calligraphy, fountain pens, inkwells, stamp collecting, etc. and a selection of samplers, school desks, and writing tables. *The exhibit will be on view at the Old Stone Store.*

Friday, July 16—Sunday, August 1. **Five Friends Art Exhibit**

The Five Friends: Walter Bogard, Hans Heuberger, Sean Ryder, Lois Ryder, and Lois Van Clef return for their fifth year to the Old Stone Store with new and recent artwork. The exhibit will correspond with the Sheffield Art League's Annual Juried Art Competition in Dewey Memorial Hall, where more of the friends' work will be featured. *The Gallery at the Old Stone Store will be open Fridays, 11-6 pm, Saturdays & Sundays, 11-4pm. The exhibit will have an opening reception Saturday, July 18, 1-3 pm.*

Saturday, August 7—Sunday, September 5

From Sheffield to Egremont: A House's Journey

Marsha Ginsberg, a photographic artist and stage designer from NYC and Egremont, has documented the rescuing and subsequent moving and restoration of the ca. 1840 Conway House from Bow Wow Rd., Sheffield to Jug End Rd., South Egremont. The house has compelling historic merit because it was once thought to have been a stop on the underground railroad. This multi-media exhibit will integrate a series of photographs and film clips edited by the artist and local history research prepared by the Society.

This schedule is subject to change. For the latest information, visit www.sheffieldhistory.org

Our Summer 2009 Exhibits & Receptions...



At top left, artists Bernie Re Jr. & Joey Sage Jablonski of Canaan, CT at the exhibit reception for Imaging Bartholomew's Cobble. They were joined by friends from Litchfield County, CT (above) who stand in front of the artists' collaborative feature installation, a panel of twelve plates which Joey fired and Bernie painted. At left, Tammi Coffin engages Pauline Clarke of Ashley Falls on the poetry of the Cobble. The artists commented on what inspired their artwork on a walk through the Cobble which the Trustees of Reservations co-lead with the artists and the Society.



Autumn Party photos by Joyce Hawkins

The Society held its annual benefit at the Captain Dewey homestead. Once thought to have been a wayside inn, it is now the home of Carl & Darcie Proper. At top right, Greig Siedor played the spirit of Captain Dewey whilst serving alcoholic spirits to the guests in the old cellar tavern. Norman Hettinger entertains Carl Proper with some historical music on his banjo. At bottom right, Marcia Brolli and Kathy Tetro help Darcie Proper greet guests in the front stair hall. Above, Samuel Herrup, Lois Levinsohn, John McClaren, Gillian Hettinger, and Chris Sink enjoy fine food & spirits among the antiques in the dining room.



an enormous project of preservation and professional restoration to the interior and exterior of the DRH. An added sun porch and bay window were removed, the roof and windows repaired and/or replaced, the unusual corner fireplaces in the north and south parlors were re-constructed, wood floors scraped and oiled by hand, and walls plastered and painted in historically accurate colors. Three years later the historic DRH structure was completed and opened to the public in time for Sheffield's 250th Anniversary Celebration in June of 1983. The acquisition of furnishings for the museum home immediately began and The Society's collections of period furniture, accessories, textiles, ceramics, tools, toys, and ephemera has filled all the rooms opened to the public.

The Society's main office is located in the DRH and numerous special events and workshops are held there and on the grounds each year. The campaign to stimulate increased interest in the DRH museum and Sheffield, the oldest town in Berkshire County, is the goal in establishing a formal partnership with local antiques dealers.

** The SHS owns 6 additional historic structures: The Mark Dewey Research Center, circa 1816; the Carriage Barn, c. 1870; Parker Hall Law Office, c. 1820; the Education Center, c. 1876, the Smokehouse, c. 1838; and the Old Stone Store, c. 1834.*

—Kathleen Tetro, *Member of the Board of Directors*

Grant Awards Announcement

The Society is also pleased to announce that it was the recipient of a \$500 grant from Sheffield Cultural Council to fund the exhibit of Little Family Letters in the Dan Raymond House and antiques supplement in the Gallery at the Old Stone Store highlighted above, *ABCs of Letter Writing—the History and Art of 19th Century Correspondence*.

The Society had also received \$500 from Berkshire Bank Foundation in FY 2009. It has deferred the use of this funding until FY 2010 following the postponement of the exhibit, which was originally scheduled for last year.

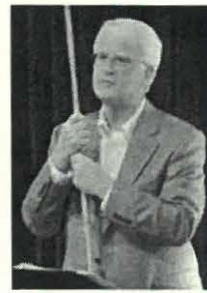
The Society's mission is threefold: to preserve, promote, and transmit our heritage to current and future generations. While this multi-media exhibit will fulfill all three criteria, it will be most interested in the third facet. As we seek to transmit this heritage, we are exploring new ways of relating this information to an expanded audience.



Massachusetts Cultural Council

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Sheffield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts

What Was Sheffield Like During WWII?



Last year Greig Siedor also spoke on the subject of WWII at the Society's Annual Meeting (above).

Our mother's ration books, fathers and uncles in uniform, gold star symbols in the parlor window...the numbers of us who share these vague childhood memories are dwindling, and what we know of The War is now to be gotten mostly from movies. What was Sheffield like during World War II?

How did we at home support the war effort?

On May 14, Greig Siedor will present "The Home Front: Sheffield during World War II" at our regular monthly

meeting. Mr. Siedor, the Historical Society's newest trustee, was born in Hartford, CT, in 1945, six days after the end of World War II, and grew up in Connecticut and Arizona. His father had been a B-17 pilot in the war and attended college in Arizona on the G.I. bill. A graduate of Trinity College and Yale Law School, Greig has been an environmental lawyer in Illinois and is a relatively new resident of Sheffield.

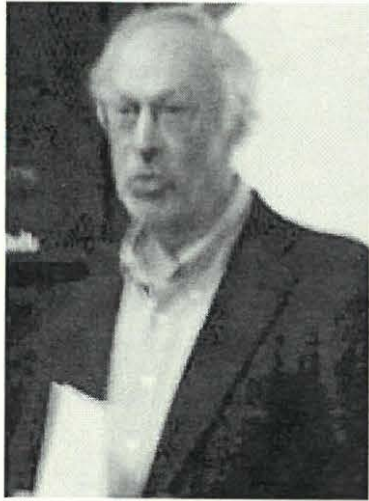
Mr. Siedor has developed a passion for researching and presenting programs about World War II, which he considers one of the most defining moments of human history. Members may remember that last June, Greig gave a gripping presentation about the Battle of Midway, using a large clock to show how the battle literally developed hour by hour. This spring, he will extend his passion through outreach into local schools. In March, Greig will conduct a program at Berkshire School in which he will ask students to design an air defense system for Great Britain and then lead a discussion about what actually happened during the famous Battle of Britain. He will introduce himself to students dressed as Prime Minister Churchill, while giving one of Churchill's inspiring speeches to the home front.

For the Society program, Greig has already begun researching through boxes of materials in the Mark Dewey Research Center, as well as newspaper accounts of daily events stored in the public libraries. Society documents include rationing booklets and also special requests for materials, such as shoes, that would otherwise not be allowed under the rationing system. His talk will focus on the impact of the War on daily life in Sheffield. Members of the community will also be invited to share their photos, memorabilia, and recollections.

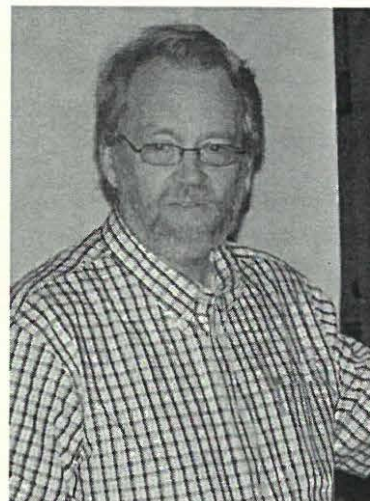
"Sheffield during World War II" will be presented on May 14, at 7:30 p.m. at Dewey Hall in Sheffield. Anyone who has questions, or who wishes to provide materials and/or recollections should call (413) 229-2694.

—Joyce Hawkins, *Program Chair*

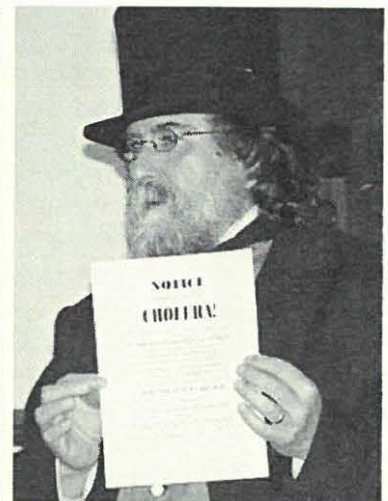
Fall 2009 Program Highlights...



David Levinson and Emilie Piper have co-authored a scholarly publication full of groundbreaking research on Mum Bette which narrates her continuing (his)story. Look for To Stand one Minute a Free Woman; Elizabeth Freeman and the Quest for Freedom in book stores and libraries in 2010. The joint program delivered at the Society's October meeting drew a crowd of African American history buffs and a group of Berkshire School history students.

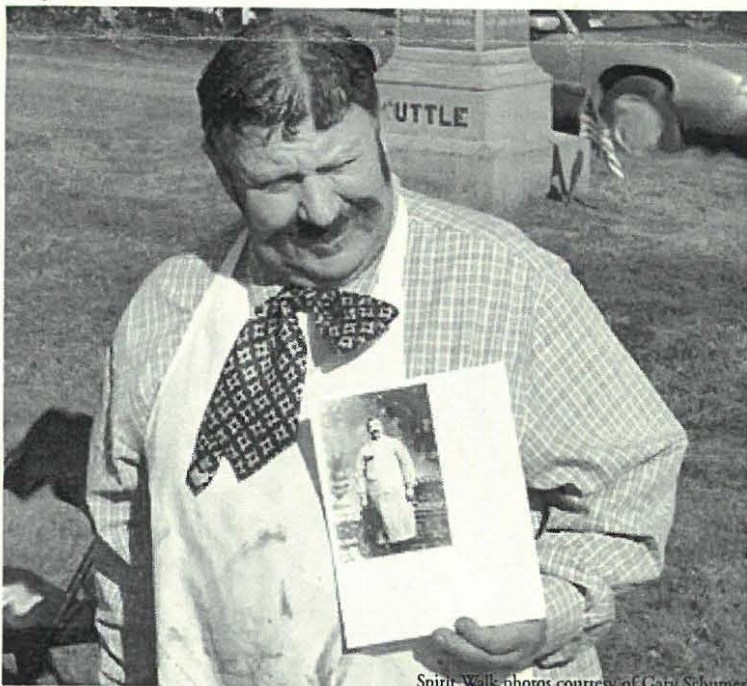


Bernie Drew of Great Barrington Historical Society spoke about the achievements of local inventor William Stanley and his influence in the history of electrical engineering at the Society's September meeting.



Dennis Picard of Storowton Village in Springfield flashes an historical bulletin on cholera preventives at a presentation on early medical care he made at the Society's November meeting.

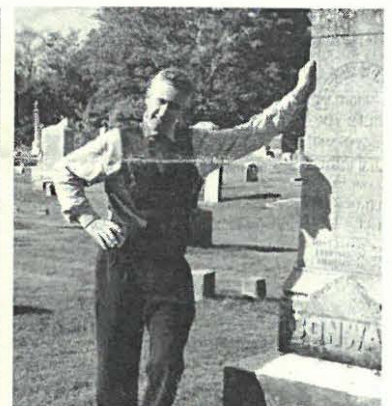
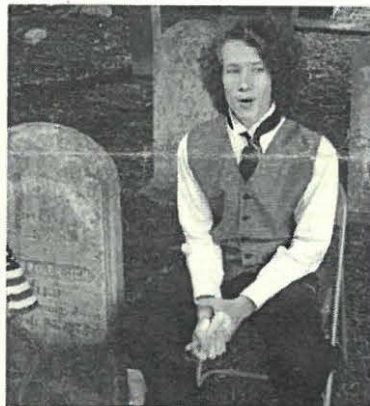
Spirit Walk 2009



Spirit Walk photos courtesy of Gary Schuman

The 2009 Spirit Walk was held in Center Cemetery on an unseasonably warm day, and the October 4 event was well-attended. Brian Levinsohn played the part of Ralston Little (above) who was a Sheffield butcher. Ralston Little was a member of the same Little family which will be the subject of an upcoming exhibit in the Dan Raymond House Museum.

At top, Ethan Chamberlain starred as Edward Eli Ensign (left) while Neal Chamberlain (right) played the part of Patrick Conway whose house will figure into the From Sheffield to Egremont exhibit in the Old Stone Store. Other participants were (middle row) Susan Pittman as Emily Rood; Dennis Sears as high sheriff, Graham Root; and Rene Wood as poet J. Luella Dowd Smith. At bottom, Pauline Schumann was Prudence A. Smith Brewer (left) and Catherine Miller played Dorothy A. Cabis, past U.S. Treasurer (right).



2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

H.Dennis Sears, *President*
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Philip Detjens, *Secretary*

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Wray Gunn
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Greig Siedor
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SOCIETY STAFF

Joanna Jennings, *Administrator*
Betty Chapin, *Volunteer Archivist*
James Miller, *Volunteer Archivist*



*Exhibit of Little Family Letters
& Nineteenth Century Correspondence*
2010 EXHIBIT SEASON IN THE DAN RAYMOND HOUSE

VOICES FROM THE FIELDS: THE FAMILY FARMS OF SHEFFIELD



Saturday, May 1—Sunday, June 6, 2010
EXHIBIT IN THE GALLERY AT THE OLD STONE STORE

CELEBRATING & DOCUMENTING SHEFFIELD'S
FAMILY FARMS FROM YESTERDAY TO TODAY



Spectacular Pasta Dinner

Saturday, April 17, 5-7:30 pm

All the pasta you can eat!

Adults \$10; Children 3-10 \$5; Children under 3 free
AMERICAN LEGION HALL, RTE. 7, SHEFFIELD

The Sheffield Historical Society



Dan Raymond House Museum • Mark Dewey Research Center
WWW.SHEFFIELDHISTORY.ORG

The Sheffield Historical Society's mission is to promote a wider understanding of the people and events that preceded us in this area, and to preserve and transmit that heritage to current and future generations.

137-161 Main Street
PO Box 747
Sheffield, MA 01257

Phone: 413-229-2694
E-mail: shs@sheffieldhistory.org

1774 Dan Raymond House is open weekdays,
Tuesday-Thursday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Or by appointment.

Mark Dewey Research Center is open weekdays,
Monday & Friday, 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., or by appointment.
Phone: 413-229-3682. Email: mdrc@sheffieldhistory.org

Old Stone Store is open on weekends,
Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Closed January through April. Phone: 413-229-2287



Save
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Natalie & Maree Funk [10]
153 East Main Street
Ashley Falls, MA 01222

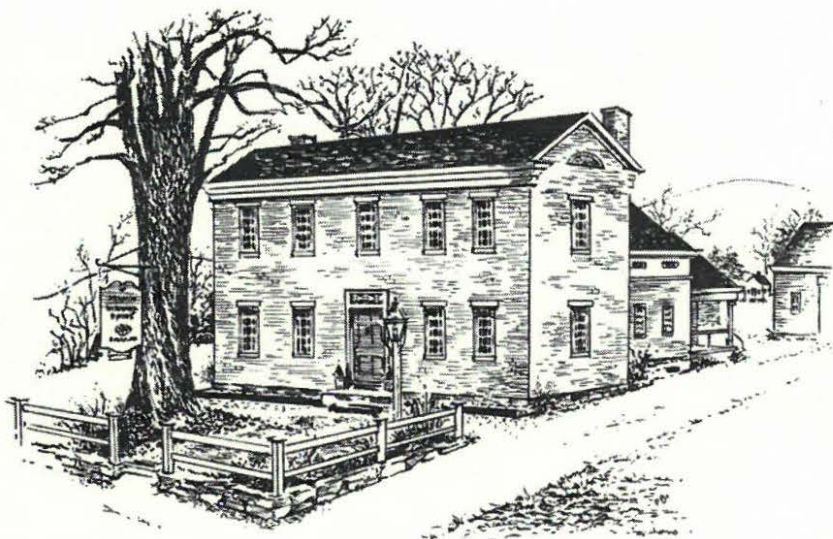
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The Sheffield Historical Society

Summer 2010



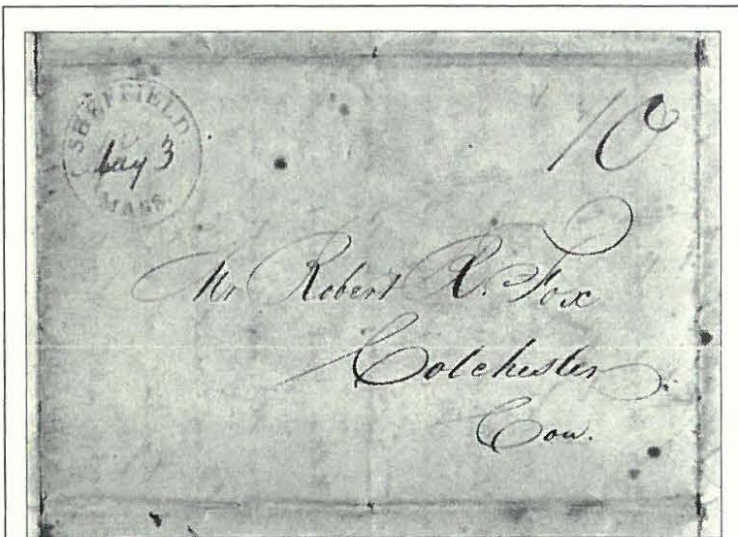
Annual Meeting Program Inspired by Letter Writing Exhibits

Before Facebook, before Twitter, before texting, we wrote letters. Much of the history of our culture and civilization is known from the collected personal letters of individuals. Some writers were famously prolific, such as Abigail Adams and, here in the Berkshires, the Sedgwicks. Others, like the Little family in Sheffield, were ordinary citizens reporting on their daily lives to friends and relatives.

This spring and summer the Sheffield Historical Society will be celebrating letter writing in two exhibits and in our June program. On May 1st through October 31st the Dan Raymond House will feature *The Little Family and 19th Century Correspondence*, a display of the Little letters written from 1807 until 1837, tied to a collection of period antiques provided by participating Sheffield antiques dealers, private collections, Berkshire Historical Society and The Mount. On June 12 to July 11, the Stone Store will feature *ABC's of Letter Writing: The History and Art of 19th Century Correspondence*, related to the exhibit at the Dan Raymond House. In conjunction with these exhibits, the Society's June 11th program will present Susan Bachelder, speaking on the history and art of letter writing and calligraphy.

Susan Bachelder, a resident of Egremont, was educated in New England private schools, attended the University of Kansas as a Fine Art major before moving to New York City where she studied at the Art Student's League with Martin Oberstein, a calligrapher on the staff of Tiffany and Co., and began a 30-year career in advertising and international film production. Upon retiring to Egremont, she attended Bard College at Simon's Rock and earned her magna cum laude Classics degree in 2003. Given the average age of Simon's Rock students, she is certain she was the oldest graduate that year.

Susan is a member of the Medieval Academy of America, The Dante Society and continues to pursue postgraduate studies at



A letter from the Little Family collection. Pre-stamp lettersheets used just one sheet of paper for economy. They were available in the 18th and 19th centuries as pre-paid postal stationery issued by postal operators. The letter was written on one side with the reverse side reserved for the address, folds, and seal.

Notice the relative formality and artful elegance of the address. The handwriting is by far the most cultivated in the collection. This hand belonged to that of the physician, S.R. Kellogg, who would have been the most educated of letter writers. Interestingly, today a physician's prescription is often shortened to "script," as if to reflect the notoriously illegible manner in which they are dashed off.

Fordham, Harvard and Princeton, as time allows.

Ms. Bachelder, being a "lefty," has always been fascinated by how we write. Attending Rudolf Steiner elementary school on Long Island, she was allowed to create her own style of writing in a way that was comfortable for her. This led to a keen interest in the shape of letters and their history. Her interest in the tools and materials for writing was enhanced by the family myth that her German ancestors in Cologne had manufactured the ink used by Gutenberg to print his Bible. The family there is in fact still in the

Article continued on page 5

Sheffield Historical Society

FY 2010 SUPPORTERS' LIST

This list includes all forms of support received in fiscal year 2010 (7/1/09-6/30/10). The aggregate amount was used to determine the level of funding. This includes Annual Appeal/Membership 2009, Lighting Fund Appeal 2009, Autumn Party contributions, and in-kind donations. Please note that donations to Annual Appeal 2010 do not appear on this list. Thank you for helping make the Society all it can be!

BENEFACTOR (\$1000+)

P & C Collins Fund
The Sheffield Grange
Rene Wood & Dennis Sears

SPONSOR (\$500-\$999)

Marcia Brolli	Noreene Storrie &
Cynthia & Thomas Dixon	Wesley McCain
Carolyn & Pattison Fulton	The Joseph H. &
Catherine & Jim Miller,	Carol F. Reich Fund
<i>in memory of Sally Proper</i>	

PATRON (\$100-\$499)

Sandra & Dale Alden	Linda & Jack McKelvey
Emily & John Alexander	Jean & Gary Miller
Mary Bartholomew,	Martha Miller-Leveillee
<i>in memory of Beth Bartholomew</i>	Ann & Daniel Moulton
Barbara & Malcolm Bayliss	Elizabeth H. O'Connor
John F. Bellinger	Anita & John Ormsbee
Robin Berthet Construction	Charlotte A. Owens &
Pam Bloodworth	John F. Owens
Jim Brandi	Elaine & Fred Panitz
Joan Brooks	Susan & Ted Pittman
Barbara & Patrick Burns	Cora Portnoff &
Carlson Propane	Wray Gunn
Elizabeth M. Chapin	Mr. & Mrs. Frank
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K.C. Clow	Susan Rothschild &
Constance Cooper	Don Freedman
Alice Corbin & Norma Edsall	Ellen & Peter Rowntree
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John James & Kathy Ness	John Stookey
Mary Joch & Charles Joch, Jr.	Kathy & Tom Tetto
Athena & Richard W. Kimball	Rebecca Myers Thomas &
Allison Lassoe	Robert M. Thomas, Jr.
Lois & Brian Levinsohn	Karen & Merle Varney
Caroline Y. Lindemann	Mary Vaughn &
Christine Ludurszewski &	Judith Williams,
Greig Siedor	<i>in honor of Joyce Hawkins</i>
Alice Lustig	Edith & Loet Velmans
Jon A. MacClaren &	Elissa Williams &
Christopher Sink	Richard Zimmerman
Dawn Massini	Nina & Don Worth

Dear Members and Friends,

It's amazing how fast a year as president of The Sheffield Historical Society has flown by! It has been a very busy year thanks to all the hard work of our team of Joanna, an active and engaged Board, our many members, and especially our core of committees and volunteers. I'd like to thank two of our trustees who will not be on the board for our 38th year beginning on July 1: Joyce Hawkins and Gillian Hettinger. Gillian resigned earlier due to personal situations limiting the amount of time she could spend in Sheffield, but she has continued to help out as time permits and we look for her continued help moving forward. Joyce Hawkins' term as a trustee is over after a great run as chair of our program committee. The good news is Joyce has agreed to continue as program chair and we look forward to a continued flow of interesting programs!

Our 37th year of operation promised a "two-edged sword" of great opportunities and rewards in carrying out our mission while also offering the financial challenges of the current economic environment. Thanks to the work of those mentioned above, the Society has been successful with both the opportunities and the challenges. We've had wonderful programs at Dewey Hall and outstanding exhibits in the Old Stone Store. This year the Society has two partnerships resulting in two great exhibits: the partnership with the Sheffield Land Trust resulting in the *Voices from the Fields: The Family Farms of Sheffield* exhibit ending in the Old Stone Store on June 6th and the partnership with local antique dealers, various museums, cultural institutions and individuals resulting in *The Little Family & 19th Century Correspondence* exhibit open in the Dan Raymond House through October 31st, and combining with *ABCs of Letter Writing: The History & Art of 19th Century Correspondence* in the Old Stone Store from June 12th through July 11th.

We also saw a new fund raising program thought up and chaired by Lois Levinsohn and Rene' Wood, the "All-You-Can-Eat Pasta Dinner" and silent auction held at the American Legion, with part of the money going to fund the food banks of Sheffield and Great Barrington. Many of you have already responded to the Annual Appeal and I hope that everyone will remember to do so during this busy season.

I'm pleased to report that we have three members who have agreed to stand for election as trustees at the Society's Annual Meeting this year. These three new trustees will bring us to a total of seven, the maximum set by our by-laws after the change in 2009. New Trustees, if elected, will be Paul O'Brien, Susan Pittman and Paul Banevicius. These three represent a wide range of backgrounds and talents that will strengthen the board in many ways. I'll give more detailed background on them when I introduce them at the Annual Meeting on Friday, June 11th.

As we move forward together the Board and I look forward to your support and appreciate any additional help, ideas and feedback you care to give.

H. Dennis Sears, *President*



Upcoming Events & Exhibits

DRH Hours: Tues.-Thurs., 11-4 pm & Sat., 1-4 pm | **OSS Hours:** Sat., 10-2 pm & Sun. 11-3 pm



NOW–Sunday, October 31, 2010. **19th Century Correspondence in Sheffield: The Exhibit of Little Family Letters**

A newly acquired collection of 19th century letters written from Sheffield to Connecticut by members of the Little family are related to the Dan Raymond House, where a later generation of the family lived. Period furnishings provided by local antiques dealers and members of the community alongside mannequins and poignant excerpts from letters complete the scene. Come learn how the letters shed a new light on the past and behold the parlors of the museum utterly transformed! *The exhibit is located in the Dan Raymond House Museum. There will be a reception on Saturday, June 19, 3-5 pm.*

Friday, June 11, 7:30 pm. **Annual Meeting & The History & Art of Calligraphy**

Classical scholar and lifelong calligrapher, Susan Bachelder, will discuss the art and history of the written word. (For more information, see feature article). *The program will take place in Dewey Memorial Hall.*

Saturday, June 12—Sunday, July 11, 2010

19th Century Correspondence in Sheffield: The ABCs of Letter Writing

A retrospective exhibit of writing and related tools of communication on loan from antiques dealers, private collections, and other museum and cultural institutions, references the exhibit in the Dan Raymond House. The Little family letters will be on display alongside objects related to the art and history of correspondence such as samples of calligraphy, samplers, fountain pens, inkwells, stamp collections, lap desks, and writing tables. *The exhibit will be installed in the Old Stone Store. A reception for both exhibits will be held in the Old Stone Store on Saturday, June 19, 3-5 pm.*

Friday, July 16—Sunday, August 1, 2010. **Five Friends Art Exhibit**

The Five Friends: Walter Bogard, Hans Heuberger, Sean Ryder, Lois Ryder, and Lois Van Clef return for their fifth year to the Old Stone Store with recent works. The exhibit will correspond with Housatonic Valley Art League's Juried Show in Dewey Memorial Hall, where more of the artists' work will be featured. *There will be a reception on Saturday, July 17, 1-3 pm.*

Saturday, August 7—Sunday, September 5, 2010. **From Sheffield to Egremont: A House's Journey**

Marsha Ginsberg, a photographic artist and stage designer from New York City and Egremont, has documented the rescuing and subsequent moving and restoration of the ca. 1840 Conway House from Bow Wow Rd., Sheffield to Jug End Rd., Egremont. The house has compelling historic merit because it was once thought to be a stop on the Underground Railroad. This multi-media exhibit will integrate a series of photographs and film clips edited by the artist and local history research prepared by the Society. *The exhibit will be located in the Old Stone Store. Date of reception TBA.*

Saturday, September 10, 7:30 pm. **Berkshire Trivia Night**

Local educator Phil Smith, author of the new "Love The Berkshires Quiz Game," a trivia game that challenges players to answer questions about local history, will lead a round of Berkshire trivia in this alternative to the Society's popular "What's It? Night" program. The game's 2,447 questions vary from comical to challenging to impossible, but players are sure to come away illuminated about the region's past! *The program will take place in Dewey Memorial Hall.*

Saturday, September 18 & October 2, 11 am. **Heritage Walks: Architectural Walking Tour of Sheffield**

Many well-built historic houses still adorn Sheffield's Main Street, and this walking tour is designed to point them out and refer briefly to some of the illustrious Sheffield citizens who owned them. For a more detailed history, visitors are referred to the Sheffield Historical Society's Mark Dewey Research Center. *The tour will start at Sheffield Historical Society, 159 Main St.*

Saturday, October 2, 2 pm. **Annual Sheffield Spirit Walk**

Join us in Center Cemetery for this popular event in a theatrical encounter with Sheffield history as memorable residents from our town's past are re-cast. Learn their stories as they are vividly brought back to life before you! *Center Cemetery is located on Berkshire School Rd., a stone's throw from DeVries Building Supply.*

Friday, October 8, 7:30 pm. **Songs of the Revolution**

Singer and historian Diane Taraz presents the "soundtrack" to the American Revolution, exploring the fascinating world behind the lyrics of the songs that rallied both sides. In colonial dress, she sings and accompanies herself on guitar and Appalachian mountain dulcimer, transporting her listeners back to the turbulent time of our country's birth. *The program will take place in Dewey Memorial Hall.*

FAMILY/DUAL (\$50-99)

Ginger & Ray Alexander	Sue & Bob MacVeety,
Karin & Allen Altman	<i>in memory of Clarence Martin</i>
Doreen & Walter Atwood	<i>& Floyd Woodbeck</i>
Paul R. Banevicius	Marian & Antonio Malnati
Ann B. Barrett	Barbara & Norman Margolis
Anne Barstow & Tom Driver	Gregg S. Massini Bus Co.
Arthur J. Batacchi,	Jeanne & Norman Merrill
<i>in memory of Betty Batacchi</i>	Sharon & George Milukas
Timothy F. Beard	Pat Molholt & Louis Levine
Paul Benjou & P.J. Birriel	Amanda Morgan &
Blanche Bennett	Chris Coenen
Elizabeth Cary &	Veda & Rusty Mott
Ricky Bernstein	Patrice Mullin
Mildred & Lo-Yi Chan	C. Twiggs Myers, <i>in memory of</i>
Kathleen & Neil Chrisman	<i>Alice Ann Chase & Art Chase</i>
Ursula & Walter Cliff	Adrienne Naessil &
Dr. & Mrs. Noel L. Cohen	Renee Voltmann
Abbott Combes, III	MaryEllen J. O'Brien &
Jacqueline & William Connell	Paul O'Brien
Dorothy A. & Peter Crockett	Kathy & Tom Orlando
Dana D. Cummings	Andrea & Dan Patel
Kitty & Dick Cunningham	Nancy O'Donohue &
Mrs. Francis Dallett	Richard W. Pearse
Ann & Bob Dean	Seymour "Rob" Robins
Nancy & Dwight Dellert	Mrs. Ted Romaine Family
Dorothy & William DeVoti	Alan & Linda Rosen
Anne & Kerry Douglas	Amy Rudnick & Ben Hillman
Audrey & John Downie	Annie Ryder
Frances Eastburn	Mary & Bob Safian
Margit Branch Elam	Shellie & Bernard Schneider
Richard Esposito	Becky & Ken Schopp
Joyce Freundlich &	Pauline & Carl Schumann
Norman Schnayer	Judy & Gary Schumer
Betsy & Phil Garcia	Andrea Scott &
Ruth & Susan Gillette	Robert Jenter
Elsie & John Gilligan	Ann & Bob Shanks
David Goldman &	Barbara & James Shiminski
Mark Schaffer	E. Bonnie Silvers
Virginia Goldner &	Diane Smith &
Stephen Rosenheck	David Smith, Sr.
Sharon Gregory	Hope & Howard J. Swanson
Ada Hastings &	Judith & Ron Timm
George Raymond	Rosemary & Arthur Uffner
Susan & Joseph Hurlburt	Hester Velmans &
Dr. & Mrs. James R. Hurley	Peter Chernerff
Nancy Jones & Gilbert Schrank	Diana Vollmer &
Christine & Joseph Kelley	Henry Vollmer, III
Beverly & James Kimball	Paula M. Wardynski
Ruth Kolbert & Fred Pomerantz	Terry Welsch
Nancy Kriegl	Elsie D. West
Maria G. Kubis &	Marilyn & John Wightman
Thaddeus B. Kubis	Elizabeth C. Wilson &
Wendy & Stephen Leigh	William Wilson
Candida & Douglas Logan	

INDIVIDUAL

Mark Bachetti Plumbing	Grace & John Campbell,
Betty & Fred Bangs	<i>in memory of David Cartinelli</i>
Trumbell Barrett	Barbara A. Carr &
Jean Blackmur	Edwin Carr, Jr.
Steven Borns	Julie & Neal B. Chamberlain
Grace W. Brown	Sally Chamberlain Cook
Bill Browne	Holly Coon
Thomas Buckley	Charles A. DuCharme
Allen County Public Library	Nancy B. Emery

Annual Reports

Nominating Committee

Position	Individual	Term
President	H. Dennis Sears (incumbent)	2012
Vice President	Lois Levinsohn (incumbent)	2012
Treasurer	Connie Cooper (incumbent)	2011
Secretary	Philip Detjens (incumbent)	2012
Trustee	Paul Banevicius	2013
Trustee	Marcia Brolli (incumbent)	2012
Trustee	Wray Gunn (incumbent)	2012
Trustee	Paul O'Brien	2012
Trustee	Susan Pittman	2013
Trustee	Greig Siedor (incumbent)	2012
Trustee	Kathleen Tetro (incumbent)	2012

H. Dennis Sears, President

Mark Dewey Research Center

The research center is an arm of the Society associated most often with historical exploration and family history although our work often takes us beyond these boundaries. We receive inquiries by e-mail, telephone, walk-ins and U.S. mail. They are researched by trained volunteers, the results sent on and copies of the work often retained for future use. In addition to adding to our collection in that way, we also actively solicit information from our many patrons, make occasional purchases and receive, gratefully, donations from friends and members.

Perhaps our most important addition to our collection this past year was the acquisition of about two dozen letters from the Little family of Sheffield, some of whom lived in the Dan Raymond House Museum. This correspondence is the basis of two exhibits this year, one presently in the Museum and one, scheduled later this summer in the Old Stone Store.

Volunteers Betty Chapin and David Prouty, continue to give faithful service to the Society and its members and patrons. Our regular hours are Monday and Friday, 1:30 to 4:00 and by appointment provided a volunteer can be available.

James Miller, Volunteer Archivist

Buildings & Grounds Committee

The Sheffield Historical Society is headquartered at 1774 Dan Raymond House Museum, 159 Main Street, Sheffield. In addition it maintains six other historic structures that date from the 19th century: The Mark Dewey Research Center, the brick Education Center, the Parker J. Hall law office, a carriage barn, a Greek-revival smokehouse, and The Old Stone Store.

Last winter the Center for Ecological Technology (CET) performed an energy audit, assessing ways in which the Society buildings could become more energy-efficient. As per the company's recommendation, an insulation upgrade was

installed in the attics of both the Research Center and the Museum, which also received a gable vent. The Society completed the work with the purchase of an energy-efficient refrigerator.

This spring the Society compost bin was rebuilt and installed on the west end of the Society grounds with the help of Berkshire School students and volunteer herb gardeners Ann Riou and Helen Macy.

The grounds staff include: volunteer, Brian Levinsohn, who has created street signs for various Society benefits; Joe Buchte, who mows and grooms the lawns; volunteers, Ann Riou and Helen Macy, who tend the herb beds; and gardener, Kathy Moore, who maintains the flower gardens.

The Society's administrator continues to live on the site and oversees its general operations. The Society is currently seeking a new chairperson for its buildings & grounds committee.

Joanna Jennings, Administrator

Collections Committee

Members of the Collections Committee for the current fiscal year were: Philip Detjens, Catherine & Jim Miller, Kathy Tetro and Joanna Jennings (ex officio).

The effort begun last year to transcribe details from the Society's collection from paper inventory sheets onto a computer software program continues to be a major activity.

The consolidation of collections storage and reclassification of the Society textile collection by category rather than by donor is another project underway. The effort began last winter in the Dan Raymond House Museum burning room and will continue upstairs into the attic storage bays in the fall.

The Society has recently been notified of two significant donations. One is an 18th century millstone from a mill on Sage's Ravine contributed by the estate of Ethel T. Storer, a former Sheffield resident. The other is a cart used to carry marble over a narrow gauge track from the Gooddale Quarry, which was donated by Barbara Demolino.

Philip Detjens, Trustee

Finance & Audit Committee

The Finance & Audit Committee meets quarterly to review and monitor the Society's budget and portfolio. Year-to-date income and expense balances are compared to actual and any material variances are investigated. Portfolio allocations are reviewed with adjustments made, if necessary.

The Committee reviews the Annual Statement, Tax Return and budget and recommends their approval by the Board of Trustees.

The Committee supports the wonderful work of the Society and its officers, board and administrator and the quality profile and programs offered to the community.

Connie Cooper, Treasurer

INDIVIDUAL (Con't)

Inez S. Flinn	Dorothy Marosy, <i>in memory</i>
Sandra & Jack French	<i>of Henry Massini</i>
Marcia Friedman	Norma Moulton
Maree & Natalie Funk	Istar H. Mudge
Maryanne & William Gillooly	Judy & Tician Papachristou
Judith H. Gott	Wesley Petersen, <i>in memory</i>
Richard L. Greene	<i>of Kathryn K. Gibbs</i>
Lindsay & Richard A. Greene	Janet Plunkett
Leonard Graziano &	Marsha & David Pottle
William Grief	Joan & Kenneth Powers,
Arlene & Ed Grossman	<i>in memory of Freddie Martin</i>
Marguerite Gulick	Doris & Alfred Richardson
Lovina Gulotta,	Ann M. Riou
<i>in memory of Santi Gulotta</i>	Muriel Rokos
Joan & John Hanlon	Jessica Roseman
Esther Heffernan	Anthony Sabatelli
Claire K. Height	Libby & Charles Schmidt
Caitlyn Hotaling	Gillian Shallercross
Franziska &	Evelyn Small
Donald V. Kenney	Betsy Smith, <i>in memory</i>
Beverly Kradel	<i>of Mildred R. Smith</i>
Wendy Linscott &	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Traub
James Lamme	A.J. Trocchi, <i>in memory</i>
Alice Leason	<i>of Edith Trocchi</i>
Gary LeBeau	Olga & Bruno Verunesi
Susan & Philip Lebowitz	Marion Whitman
Robert D. Ledlie	Martha & Barry Williamson
Sarah Macy	Susan & Tom Young

Article continued from page 1

ink and paper business. Susan's presentation will include the physical history of letter writing and how the tools we have used have informed our alphabets. Materials, kinds of paper, quills and nibs, and our own Massachusetts history of paper manufacturing will be touched on as we discover how the act of writing letters became its own social commentary on American culture and where this endangered art is leading us.

Finally, Ms. Bachelder will discuss the future of writing and of recorded history itself as fewer and fewer people commit ink to paper and rely instead on electronic devices. How will future generations learn about our times if the only communications describing these times are stored in computers?

"The History and Art of Letter Writing and Calligraphy" will be held on **Friday, June 11, at 7:30 p.m.** at Dewey Memorial Hall in Sheffield. The program will be preceded by the Society's annual meeting, and followed by an ice cream social. For further information, call the Sheffield Historical Society at (413) 229-2694.

—Joyce Hawkins, Program Chair

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H. Dennis Sears, *President*
Lois Levinsohn, *Vice President*
Connie Cooper, *Treasurer*
Philip Detjens, *Secretary*

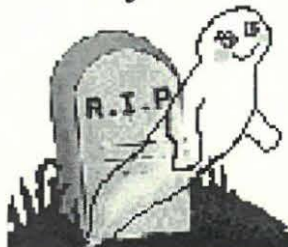
Marcia Brolli, *Trustee*
Wray Gunn, *Trustee*
Joyce Hawkins, *Trustee*
Greig Siedor, *Trustee*
Kathy Tetro, *Trustee*

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Joanna Jennings, *Administrator*
Betty Chapin, *Volunteer Archivist*
James Miller, *Volunteer Archivist*
David Prouty, *Volunteer Archivist*

Hey there! Would you like to join us too?

*The 2010 Sheffield
Spirit Walk
needs the talent
of YOU!*



On April 16 Berkshire School held its annual Gracious Living Day, participating in spring clean-up at various locations throughout the community. The group of students who visited the Society helped clean out the compost bin (above) which volunteer herb gardeners, Ann Riou and Helen Macy, later reconstructed. Other helpers were: Marcia Brolli, Joyce & Ross Hawkins, KC Clow, Philip Detjens, Dennis Sears, and Jim Shiminiski. Thank you to all who took part!

The Sheffield Historical Society



Dan Raymond House Museum • Mark Dewey Research Center • Old Stone Store
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The Sheffield Historical Society's mission is to promote a wider understanding of the people and events that preceded us in this area, and to preserve and transmit that heritage to current and future generations.

159 Main Street
PO Box 747
Sheffield, MA 01257

Phone: 413-229-2694
E-mail: shs@sheffieldhistory.org

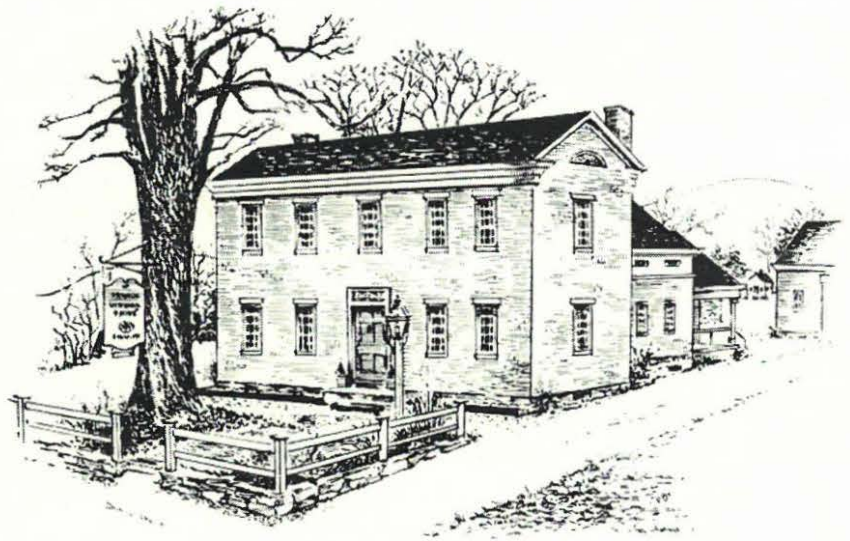
1774 Dan Raymond House is open weekdays,
Tuesday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, 1-4 p.m.
Or by appointment.

Mark Dewey Research Center is open weekdays,
Monday & Friday, 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., or by appointment.
Phone: 413-229-3682. Email: mdrc@sheffieldhistory.org

Old Stone Store is open on weekends,
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Closed January through April. Phone: 413-229-2287

The Sheffield Historical Society

Autumn 2010



Old Parish Church Celebrates Its 275th Anniversary

The Sheffield Historical Society will help Old Parish Church celebrate its 275th anniversary with an exhibit in the Old Stone Store and through the Spirit Walk in October.

This fall Old Parish Church will celebrate its 275th anniversary. The Committee has planned many events focusing around the actual date of its beginning, October 22, 1735, when they ordained their first minister, The Rev. Jonathan Hubbard. Also acknowledged will be the 250th anniversary of the construction of the meeting house on the Sheffield Green. While the congregation is the second oldest in Berkshire County, the church building itself is the oldest.

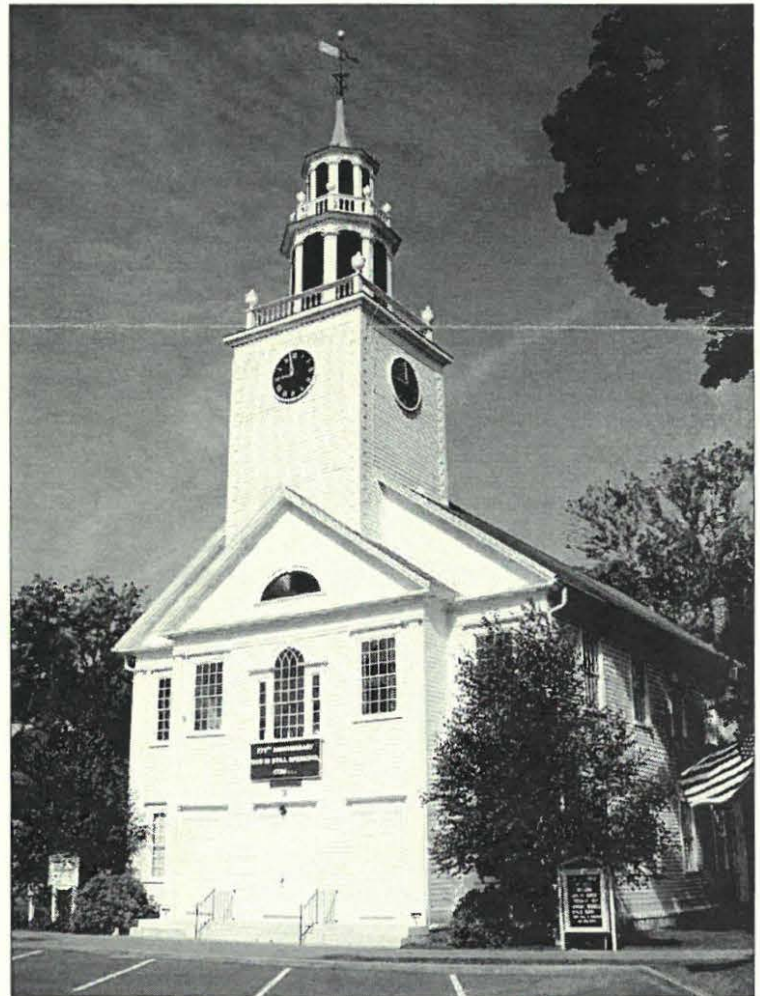
Numerous events will mark this milestone. Beginning October 2, the Church and the Sheffield Historical Society will co-sponsor a commemorative exhibit at the Stone Store, and on Saturday, October 2, the Annual Spirit Walk in the Center Cemetery will feature notable people who have been part of the Church's past.

The actual anniversary of the founding of the church will be held on Friday, October 22, beginning at 6:00 pm at the American Legion with a dinner and entertainment, hosted by John-Arthur and Trudy Weaver Miller. It will be open to the public. Tickets are \$25 for adults; children under 12 are free.

A Colonial Worship Service will be held at 10:00 am on Sunday, October 24. Participants are encouraged to wear Colonial clothing and the sermon will be typical of those heard in the 18th century, delivered by The Rev. Jill Graham, pastor of Old Parish.

Sheffield residents are encouraged to share in the exhibit and related programs.

—Marcia Brolli and John Wightman,
275th Old Parish Anniversary Exhibit Committee



The original meeting house was built ca. 1735 and located on the Sheffield Plain. According to Lillian Preiss it was a "primitive building...forty-five by thirty-five, plastered on the four walls up to the girts and plates, leaving the roof exposed." By 1760 the town had outgrown this modest space and the center had shifted further south. The 1760 Old Parish Church started as the inner clapboard framed structure you see in the above photo. In 1820 the church was moved back from the road to its present site. The side galleries were added, along with an elegant steeple and belfry. The installation of high chimneys and wood stoves also would have been a nice improvement from the unheated meetinghouse of yore.

Dear Members and Friends,

"History" is the result of change and historical societies have history like everything else. The Sheffield Historical Society is now making history as change comes to the Society in form of the departure of our Administrator, Joanna Jennings. Over the last three and one half years that Joanna has been with us, she has added to our history by utilizing her artistic skills to improve the graphic public face of the Society. Our poster advertisements, newsletters and web site all show the results of application of her creative and artistic skills. We all thank her for all her contributions, wish her well, and hope she finds even greater opportunities for demonstrating that creative ability wherever she goes next to make history.

Our 38th year of operation had a spring and summer of great exhibits using both the Old Stone Store and Dan Raymond House. The season started with a partnership with the Sheffield Land Trust resulting in the *Voices from the Fields: The Family Farms of Sheffield* exhibit ending in the Old Stone Store on June 6th. A partnership with local antique dealers, various museums, cultural institutions and individuals resulting in *The Little Family & 19th Century Correspondence* exhibit continuing in the Dan Raymond House through October 31st and combined with *ABCs of Letter Writing: The History & Art of 19th Century Correspondence* in the Old Stone Store. The current *From Sheffield to Egremont: A House's Journey* will run through September 26th and then be followed by an exhibit celebrating the 275th Anniversary of Old Parish Church. Then, before you know it, we'll be into the Festival for the Holidays!

Thanks to all those who have made contributions this year. The Annual Appeal continues and if you haven't contributed to continue your membership, I hope you will do so before year-end.

A special thanks for the many hours of support and just plain work provided by the Board and volunteers. Without your efforts, there would be no change, no history and no Sheffield Historical Society.

H. Dennis Sears, President
Sheffield Historical Society

Songs of the Revolution



In 1776 New Englanders sang all the time, for many reasons. Soldiers sang marching songs, mothers sang lullabies, youths sang melodies of romantic passion, congregations sang hymns in church. Songs carried the news of the day to people who could not read. And when the sun went down there was nothing better than a 40-verse ballad full of bloody derring-do to while away the evening.

On Friday evening, October 8th, the Sheffield Historical Society will present Diane Taraz, collector of Colonial songs, exploring the fascinating world behind the lyrics of the songs that rallied both sides during the American Revolutionary War. In Colonial dress, she will sing and accompany herself on guitar and Appalachian mountain dulcimer, transporting listeners back to the turbulent time of our country's birth.

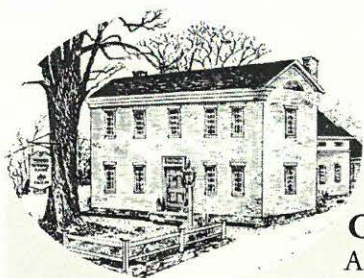
Diane Taraz is an avid collector of old songs and the history behind them. She has taught Colonial-era songs at the Lexington Historical Society and has performed at many historical organizations throughout Massachusetts. Diane Taraz loves the intersection of history and music, and enjoys sharing the fascinating stories of both extraordinary characters and common folk of the past. She has a bachelor's in education from Boston College and a master's in communication from Lesley, and has studied at the Longy School of Music. She is director of the Lexington Historical Society Colonial Singers, and performs throughout New England both solo and with the Gloucester Hornpipe & Clog Society, a band that plays maritime, Celtic, and colonial music.

The Historical Society program will feature such songs as:

- "An American Frigate," a broadside ballad of 1780 about Capt. John Paul Jones, who cried in the heat of battle, "I have not yet begun to fight!"
- "Young Ladies in Town," created in 1769 to encourage fashionable ladies to boycott British goods, asking them to refuse marriage proposals from men wearing London fabrics,
- "The Drum," a recruiting song collected by a captain in the 11th Pennsylvania Regiment in 1780,
- "Free America," written in 1770 by the beloved Dr. Joseph Warren, slain at the Battle of Bunker Hill, and
- "Chester," a patriotic 1778 anthem by William Billings meant to bolster the morale of a population facing the mightiest army in the world with few resources.

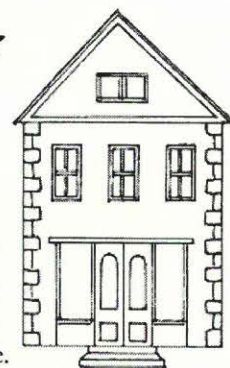
This delightful evening of colonial songs will be presented at 7:30 p.m. at Dewey Hall in Sheffield on October 8th. CDs of Ms. Taraz's traditional music and her own compositions will be on sale at the meeting.

For further information, call (413) 229-2694. —*article by Diane Taraz, edited by Joyce Hawkins, Society Program Chair*



Upcoming Events & Exhibits

DRH Hours: Tues.-Thurs., 11-4 pm & Sat., 1-4 pm | OSS Hours: Sat., 10-2 pm & Sun. 11-3 pm



NOW—Sunday, October 31. **19th Century**

Correspondence in Sheffield: The Exhibit of Little Family Letters

A newly acquired collection of 19th century letters written from Sheffield to Connecticut by members of the Little family are related to the Dan Raymond House, where a later generation of the family lived. Period furnishings provided by local antiques dealers and members of the community alongside mannequins and poignant excerpts from letters complete the scene. Come learn how the letters shed a new light on the past and behold the parlors of the museum utterly transformed! *The exhibit is located in the Dan Raymond House Museum.*

Saturday, August 7—Sunday, September 26. **From Sheffield to Egremont: A House's Journey**

Marsha Ginsberg, a photographic artist and stage designer from New York City and Egremont, has documented the rescuing and subsequent moving and restoration of the ca. 1840 Conway House from Bow Wow Rd., Sheffield to Jug End Rd., Egremont. The house has compelling historic merit because it was once thought to be a stop on the Underground Railroad. This multi-media exhibit will integrate a series of photographs and film clips edited by the artist and local history research prepared by the Society. *The exhibit will be located in the Old Stone Store.*

Saturday, September 18 & October 2, 11 am. **Heritage Walks: Architectural Walking Tour of Sheffield**

Many well-built historic houses still adorn Sheffield's Main Street, and this walking tour is designed to point them out and refer briefly to some of the illustrious Sheffield citizens who owned them. For a more detailed history, visitors are referred to the Sheffield Historical Society's Mark Dewey Research Center. *The tour will start at Sheffield Historical Society, 159 Main St.*

Saturday, October 2, 2 pm (Rain Date: October 3). **Annual Sheffield Spirit Walk**

Join us in Center Cemetery for this popular event in a theatrical encounter with Sheffield history as memorable residents from our town's past are re-cast. Learn their stories as they are vividly brought back to life before you! *Center Cemetery is located on Berkshire School Rd., a stone's throw from DeVries Building Supply.*

Saturday, October 2—Sunday, October 31. **Old Parish Church's 275th Anniversary Exhibit**

For more information about the Celebration, see article on front page. Highlights of the exhibit will include a number of documents from the Society archives including excerpts from the congregation's covenant, passages from some of Rev. Bradford and Rev. Keep's sermons, and a mid-20th century wage report of a parson's responsibilities. A fragment of raised-field paneling from the original meeting house on the plain on loan from the Bushnell-Sage Library while benches and a silver plated communion set will be on loan from the Church. A detailed church history and 275th Anniversary timelines and new research prepared by church historian John Wightman will also be available. *The exhibit will be located in the Old Stone Store.*

Friday, October 8, 7:30 pm. **Songs of the Revolution**

Singer and historian Diane Taraz presents the "soundtrack" to the American Revolution, exploring the fascinating world behind the lyrics of the songs that rallied both sides. In colonial dress, she sings and accompanies herself on guitar and Appalachian mountain dulcimer, transporting her listeners back to the turbulent time of our country's birth. *The program will take place in Dewey Memorial Hall.*

Friday, November 12, 7:30 pm. **Holiday Tastings from the Festival**

Come get in the mood for the holidays with this preview of this year's Festival for the Holidays. Enjoy tasty samplings of wine, cheese, and other Old Stone Store products.. *The program will take place in Dewey Memorial Hall.*

Saturday, November 13—Sunday, December 19. **12th Annual Festival for the Holidays**

Shop for everyone on your list at the Sheffield Historical's Society's holiday bazaar. Featuring a wide array of handmade goods, including miniature trees, wreaths, ornaments, jewelry, holiday treats, gifts, raffles, and local crafts. Upstairs holiday tag sale with Old Stone Store markdowns. *The Festival will have special extended hours from 11 to 4 pm on Black Friday (November 26).*

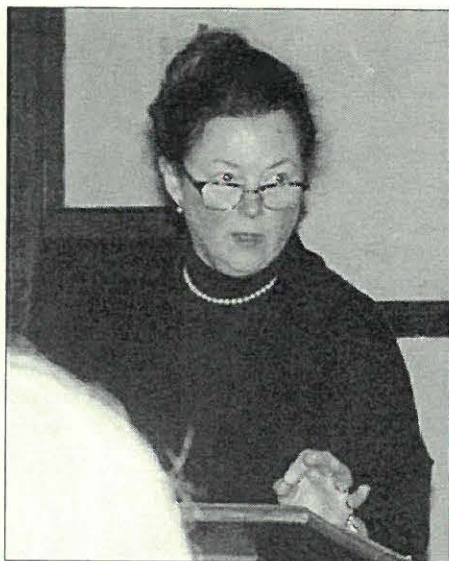
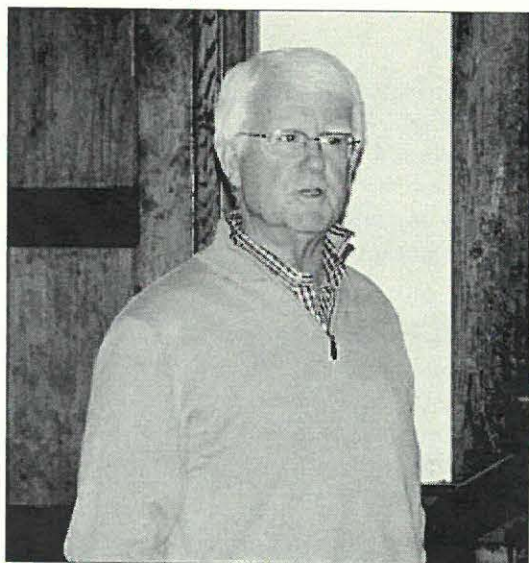
Sunday, December 12, 4-6 pm. **Annual Holiday Party**

Come gather 'round the festive keeping room fireside in the Dan Raymond House and enjoy some good ol' holiday cheer in the spirit of yesteryear. Join friends new and old. Music, merriment, and more. *The program will take place in the Dan Raymond House Museum.*

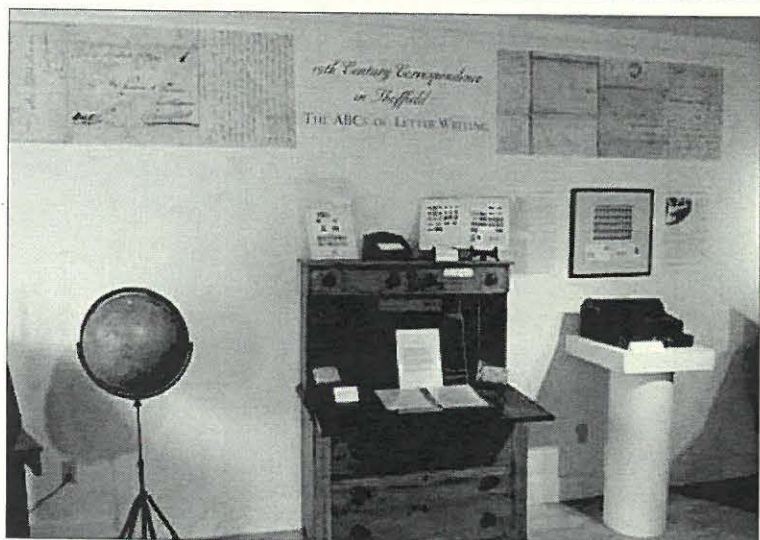
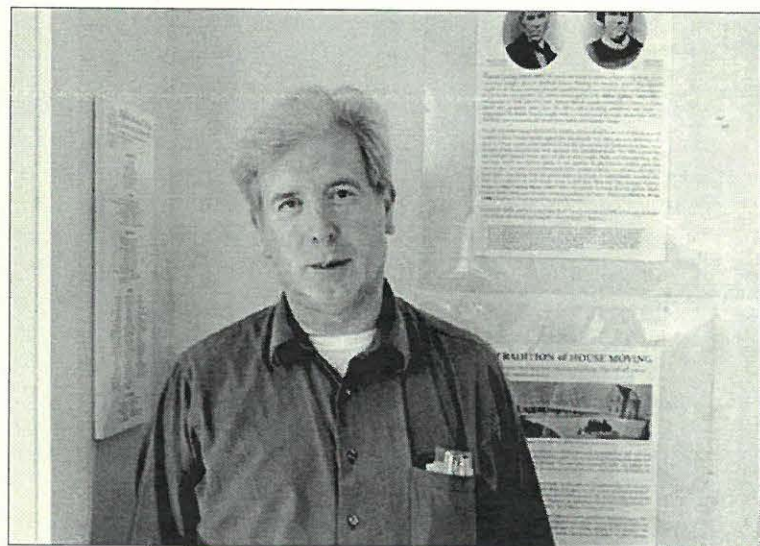
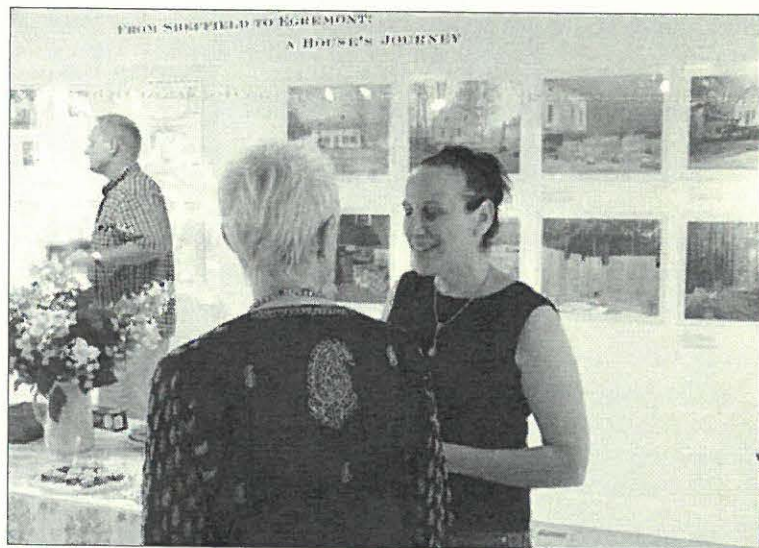
Friday, January 14, 2011, 7:30 pm. **It's the Annual What's It? Night**

The objects as ever have yet to be identified. Curious? Come find out! Have something strange of your own that you'd like identified? Bring it along! *The program will take place in Dewey Memorial Hall.*

This Season's Programs & Receptions. . .



Above, three monthly meeting speakers. Greig Siedor (left) is an avocational WWII historian and a member of the Society Board. Research materials in the Society archives and oral history interviews he gathered from local residents culminated in his May program about what the Sheffield home front was like during this era. Susan Bachelder of South Egremont (center) spoke at the Annual Meeting on the art and history of calligraphy and letter writing. Ms. Bachelder is a classical scholar and leads an annual calligraphy workshop sponsored by Massachusetts Cultural Council. Jacqueline O'Connell (right) a local restoration consultant and landscape architect, gave a slide presentation on architectural history and historic paint colors.



Above left, Marsha Ginsberg, the artist behind the photographic series on the historic Conway House moving and restoration, speaks with a friend at the From Sheffield to Egremont exhibit reception. Karl Radke of Pittsfield (above right) also attended the reception. Mr. Radke whose father and aunt resided in the Conway House after the Conway family had interesting stories to share about the house.

BERKSHIREBANK

From Sheffield to Egremont was brought to you by Berkshire Bank Foundation. America's Most Exciting Bank.

At left, the second 19th century correspondence exhibit The ABCs of Letter Writing, on display in the Old Stone Store in July, included a number of 19th century writing desks, inkwells, quill and nib pens on loan from local antiques dealers and private collections. The Society's collection of Little family letters were showcased alongside letters written by famous Berkshire authors Herman Melville and Edith Wharton.



Photograph courtesy of Sheffield Land Trust

John Wightman, Jim and Jimmy Larkin, Art Batacchi, Sr. and Warren Wilcox attended the Voices from the Fields exhibit reception at the Old Stone Store on May 1. Collaborative exhibits have brought greater numbers through the Society doors this season. The Voices from the Fields and The ABCs of Letter Writing exhibits drew crowds of 250+ respectively, while visitation at The Dan Raymond House Museum (see below) was up by 80% from previous years.



Have you been to see the new exhibit in the Dan Raymond House this year? Don't worry...there's still time! The Exhibit of Little Family Letters will remain up through October 31, and the museum continues to be open on Saturday afternoons from 1 to 4 pm. The exhibit features fabulous 19th century selections from local antiques dealers as well as textiles and communication tools from Berkshire and Sheffield historical societies. All of these collection objects bring the language and content of the letters to life!

At right, a collection of antique glass inkwells on loan from a local private collection were another highlight of the ABCs of Letter Writing exhibit in the Old Stone Store.



The 19th Century Correspondence in Sheffield exhibits were funded in part by Berkshire Bank Foundation and in part by Sheffield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by Massachusetts Cultural Council.

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Dear Members, Friends, and Colleagues,



It is with regret that I announce my resignation from Sheffield Historical Society. I will be leaving the Society at the end of September for a museum position in the greater Boston area.

Throughout my three-year tenure, I have enjoyed the challenges of being the sole employee and of wearing many hats. I believe that working within a limited means has in some ways made my approach more innovative. Now it is time to put some of that ingenuity I have learned to a greater use. As I go back out into the work force, this time I am envisioning a museum large enough to have different people under those many hats I have worn!

While the city of the Boston is full of its own rich history, in leaving Sheffield, the oldest town in Berkshire County, I think what I will miss most is the sense of community kindled among friends, colleagues, mentors, and the wonderful volunteer support which is uniquely Sheffield. You have helped teach me that it really does 'take a village' as the saying goes. In addition, I will miss all the local history and family research that I had become so fond of completing for Society exhibits. Alas, I am not a Sheffield native, so that history is about you. Interestingly, my own Scottish ancestry, upon fulfilling their indentureship in Nova Scotia settled near Lynn, MA, so it is no coincidence that *manifest destiny* should bring me further... east!

Since I will be leaving the area, my resignation also affects my position of Assistant Director at the Bidwell House Museum, where I have worked since 2005. I am much indebted to both organizations for offering me the equivalent of a five-year course of study in Early American lifeways and museum management.

Leaving Sheffield is a bittersweet thing. I would like to thank all of you for making my time here as memorable and eventful as it was.

Yours sincerely,

Joanna Jennings

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Connie Cooper, *Treasurer*
Philip Detjens, *Secretary*

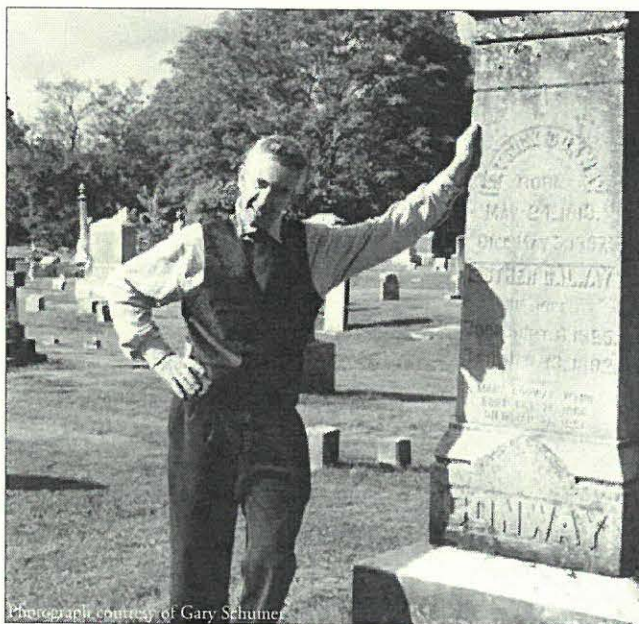
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Photograph courtesy of Gary Schumier

Neal Chamberlain played the part of Patrick Conway in the 2009 Sheffield Spirit Walk in Center Cemetery. Patrick Conway was the owner of the historic Conway House, now the subject of the house moving exhibit From Sheffield to Egremont on view through September 26 in the Old Stone Store. While the 2010 Spirit Walk will be held in Center Cemetery again, the theme of this year's event will be on the lives of Old Parish Church congregationalists, a part of the Church's 275th Anniversary Celebration.

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