The Sheffield Historical Society

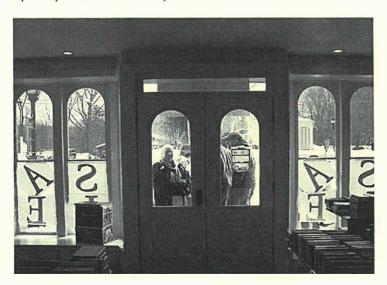


Spring 2011

Mark Dewey Research Center: Genealogies & More

The Society received a huge trove of books from the estate of the late Ursula Gamble Kilner of Salisbury, CT, a member in the formative years of our group. Ursula was an accomplished genealogist and she and her husband were avid readers and bibliophiles throughout their lifetimes.

The collection will be put to different uses, but most important to our mission are the hundreds of historical and genealogical tomes on states, counties and towns of the tri-state area of Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York and general and specialized volumes on United States history. These have already become part of the permanent collection of our research library which is maintained on the Society's campus next door to our headquarters, the Dan Raymond House. The unique aspects of the library's collection, however, continue to



Eager customers lining up for the opening of the book sale at the Old Stone Store.



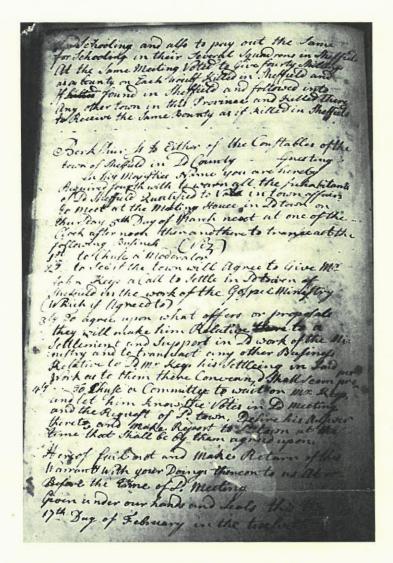
One small corner of the available books at the book sale.

be our manuscript, photograph and subject files on Sheffield history which do not exist anywhere else.

The published genealogies we now possess are listed below and you are invited to use them and our other resources during regular operating hours, 1:30 to 4:00 on Mondays and Fridays.

Adams Austin Barber Bartholomew Batchelder Benjamin Brigham Boardman Brodhead Bunnell/Bonnell Burrell/Burrill Burt Callender Campbell

continued on page 3



Old Sheffield News – February 17th 1772

What you are looking at is a Notice sent out by the Sheffield Select Men calling for a Town Meeting on Thursday, March 5th, 1772 to vote on calling a new Pastor for Old Parish Church - at that time the official state church. This page is from the Town Records and Vital Records restoration project being managed by the Sheffield Town Clerk, Felecie Joyce. The first two volumes of these have been recently returned and are available for study at the Town Clerk's office. Felecie is a great support to the Society and redirects to us the many interested people who wander into her office looking to find out more about the history of Sheffield. Her hours, in case you'd like to see what happened on other days in Sheffield's past are Monday through Friday from 9am to 4pm.

The Notice in its entirety says the following:

"Berkshires. To Either of the Constables of the Town of Sheffield in said County. Greetings.

In his Majesties Name you are hereby required forthwith to warn all the Inhabitants of the Town of Sheffield Qualified to Vote in town affairs to meet at the Meeting House in said Town on Thursday 5th Day of March next at one of the Clock after noon then and there to transact the following Business (Viz)

1st to Chuse a Moderator

2^{ly} to See if the town will Agree to Give Mr. John Keep a Call to Settle in the Town of Sheffield in the work of the Gospel Ministry (Which if Agreed to)

3^{ly} to agree upon what offers or proposals they will make him Relative there to a Settlement and Support in said work of the Ministry and to transact any other Business Relative to said Mr. Keep his Settleing in said Work as to them there Convened Shall seem proper.

4^{ty} to Chuse a Committy to wait on Mr. Keep and let him know the Votes in said Meeting and the Request of The town. Define his Answer thereto and make Report the town at the time that shall be by them agreed upon.

Here of fail not and make Return of this Warrant With hour Doings there on to us At or Before the Time of the Meeting.

Given under our hands and Seals this the 17th Day of February in the twelveth Year of his Majesties Reign anno 1772.

Lemuel Barnard Stephen Dewey Silas Kellogg John Ashley Aaron Root Select men of Sheffield"

Interesting to note is the last part of the top of the page:

".....At the Same Meeting Voted to give fourty Shillings as a bounty on Each Wolf Killed in Sheffield and If found in Sheffield and followed into any other town in this Province and killed there to Receive the Same Bounty as if killed in Sheffield."

Looks like in 1772 Sheffield was looking for both material and spiritual help to keep the wolves from the door!

William L. Maxson & the Berkshire Trout Farm

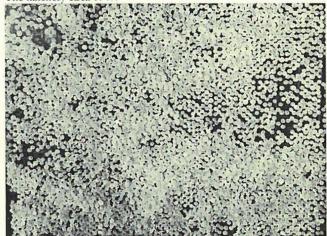
A bit of innovative post-World War II technology found its way to Sheffield in the form of an aquaculture venture designed to provide fish for meals to be served by Pan American World Airways on their new trans-Atlantic clipper planes scheduled to begin early in 1949.

Maxson Food System, which developed much of the technology, had early experience in providing frozen meals for troops flying overseas with the Naval Air Transport Service during the war. Maxson called them Strato-Plates and they evolved into what came to be known as the popular TV Dinner of the 1950's.

William L. Maxson started the trout farm on present-day South Undermountain Road in the spring of 1946. It consisted of a series of hatching troughs, 25 rearing ponds, an artificial lake and a freezer plant capable of holding one-half million pounds of fish at 40° below zero, said to be enough to fill 12 railroad cars. In addition to providing trout for its precooked dinners, the company also sold fry, fresh fish and rented locker plant space.



The hatchery circa 1947.

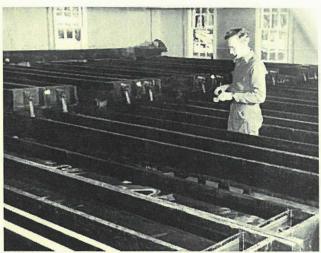


Hundreds of eggs float in the trough waiting to batch.

Maxson was a 1921 graduate of the Naval Academy, resigning his commission in 1935. Credited personally with nine inventions, his companies held another 72 patents. One, the "robot navigator" was used by Howard Hughes in his flight around the world in 1938. Unfortunately, Tuba, as Maxon was known, died at age 58 in 1947 and the \$300,000 facility, including four dwellings and a barn on 537 acres was put on the market by his heirs. It brought only \$67,500.

The new owner, shifting gears, ran it as a sportsman's fishing paradise under the name Berkshire Trout Farm. They offered accommodations in a "new luxury Motel" and charged \$5.50 per day for fishing, five trout, maximum weight five pounds. The acreage was later divided into minute "water front" lots too small to build on, that caused a ruckus in a town without any planning in place. For those of you who are familiar with it, Sherwood Forest in Becket was a similar debacle perpetrated by the same man.

- James R. Miller



Checking on the hatching troughs



Rearing ponds.

The Sheffield Historical Society



Summer 2011

Tuskegee Airmen

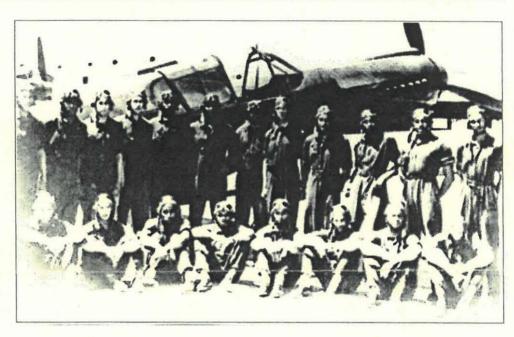
September Program to Feature Tuskegee Airmen

On Friday, Sept. 9, the Historical Society will present Bruce Bird, founder of the Museum of Black World War 2 History in Pownal, Vermont. Mr. Bird will speak about the Tuskegee Airmen, the first all Black Airforce unit to fly combat missions in World War II.

The Tuskegee unit was established in January, 1941. as the Army Air Corps became open to Blacks after decades of segregation. Tuskegee, Alabama, was chosen for the flight school. Because of local prejudice, the 99th fighter squadron was not sent into combat until July 2, 1943, and thus had received more training than any white squadron. This unit was joined in February, 1944 by the 100th, 301st, and 302nd fighter squadrons to form the 332nd fighter group. Eventually the group flew P-51 Mustangs, known The Germans called the 332nd the as "red tails". "Schwartze Volgelmenchen", or "Black Birdmen." While most white pilots were rotated home after 50 missions, black airmen flew as many as 158 missions, because Tuskegee could not train enough black men to replace them.

The 450 Tuskegee pilots flew over 1,500 missions, destroying 111 enemy aircraft in the air, plus 150 more on the ground. The Tuskegee Airmen also included 994 flight crew and 16,000 to 19,000 ground crew in the Army Air Corps. Many Black units served with great distinction in WW II, and this was a factor in President Truman's order. to desegregate the Military in 1948.

Bruce Bird had spent most of his life as a factory worker



until he sustained a back injury in 1977. As a result of this injury, he started a college career at the tender age of 37, when the state of Vermont financed his Associates Degree in Industrial Management. Unable to find employment in that field, Bruce returned to school and earned his BA in History in 1985. From 1988 to 1990, Mr. Bird was part time curator of the Vermont National Guard Museum, while performing fulltime factory work, until at age 64, he accepted early retirement. Having read military history, built military models, and collected military artifacts, he decided to open a military museum. When a former school house became available in Pownal, Mr. Bird decided to honor Black troops with a Museum designed to highlight the forgotten service of 1.1 million African-American servicemen and women who served in World War Two. The Museum of Black WW II History was opened on June 3rd, 2006, and is the only Museum about the African-American service in WW II in the country.

"Tuskegee Airmen" will be presented at Dewey Hall in Sheffield on Sept. 9, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. For further information, call (413) 229-2694.

Joyce Hawkins, with Bruce Bird

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Old Stone Store Saturdays 10:00 - 2:00 / Sundays 11:00 - 3:00

SHS programs at Dewey Memorial Hall:

Friday, Sept. 9th 7:30 p.m. The Tuskegee Airman

Bruce Bird of the Museum of Black WW2 History talks about the Tuskegee Airmen, the first African American military aviators in the U.S. armed forces.

Friday, Oct. 14th 7:30 p.m.
The Berkshire Trout Farm

Rhonda Cushwa presents Maxson Food Service & the development of frozen dinners.

Friday, Nov. 10th 7:30 p.m.

Old Stone Store tastings Come check out this year's goodies offered at the Festival of Holidays!

Sunday, Dec. 11th 5:00 p.m.

Sheffield Historical Society Annual Holiday party at the Dan Raymond House.

Exhibits at The Old Stone Store:

Sat. Aug. 6th - late Sept. Talking Maps :

These Maps Tell Stories

Maps open windows on our history—South County/ Sheffield from 1794 to the present. The closer you look, the more stories are uncovered!

Dear Members and Friends,

The Society begins its 39th year of operation on a sad note. The last year has seen us all say good-bye to two of our founding members, Lillian Preiss and Milton Barnum. Lillian and Milton were not only founding members, but both had held most of the Society's leadership positions including President. Both were continuously active in supporting the Society until health conditions no longer permitted such activity. It's very hard to pick out just one highlight of such long, excellent service, but I personally think most people will connect Lillian with the Society through her book, Sheffield: Frontier Town and Milton with his wonderful local artifact collection and his annual January "What's It?" program featuring so many items from his collection. background and obituary notices for both Lillian and Milton are on the Society's web site under the "more" tab and will remain a while longer.

The Old Stone Store has been very active this calendar year beginning with our six-week long giant book sale of the bequest left to the Society by Ursula Gamble Kilner. Detailed information on the collection can be viewed in the Spring 2011 Newsletter found on the website at http://sheffieldhistory.weebly.com/newsletter.html. Following this was the just-closed exhibit, "Sheffield During the Civil War." Open now is "Talking Maps: These Maps Tell Stories," illustrating some of the changes that have taken place in South County, primarily Sheffield, from the date of the earliest map, 1794, to the 21st century.

A great lineup of monthly program meetings in Dewey Hall starting in September appears in this newsletter, so mark these on your calendar now!

Many hard working member volunteers, board members, speakers, and community members make all these events happen, and I'd like to thank several people who have "timed out" of positions at the June 30th fiscal year end. Connie Cooper has served her three years as Treasurer of the Society and Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee, a major load to carry while she also held a full time job in addition to family duties. I'm happy to say she has accepted an appointment by the Trustees to the position of Funds Manager. Philip Detjens has served his three years as Secretary of the Society in addition to years of work on the Finance and Audit, Collections, and Fund Raising Committees. Philip has agreed to stay on as a member of the Collections Committee. Please join me in thanking Connie and Philip for their many hours of support for the Society. A list of the current FY12 Officers and Trustees is found here in the newsletter.

The Society thanks those who have continued membership this calendar year with a donation to the Sheffield Historical Society Annual Appeal. Money raised from the Annual

Annual Reports

Board of Directors 2011-2012

Position	Individual	Term
President	H. Dennis Sears	2012
Vice President	Paul O'Brien	2013
Treasurer	Lois Levinsohn	2014
Secretary	Susan Pitman	2014
Trustee	Paul Banevicius	2013
Trustee	Marcia Brolli	2012
Trustee	Wray Gunn	2012
Trustee	Greig Siedor	2012
Trustee	Kathleen Tetro	2012
Trustee	Joyce Hawkins	2014
Funds Manager	Connie Cooper	2012
MDRC Director	James R. Miller	2012
Administrator	Barbara L. Dowling	



President's Letter continued from page 2:

Appeal goes toward the operating expenses of the Society (programs, exhibits, staff, buildings, utilities, etc.). You may want to consider the use of an "IRA Charitable Rollover" for your annual appeal donation this year or perhaps for a larger gift to the Society's endowment fund. This year is the last year individuals may roll over up to \$100,000 from an individual retirement account (IRA) directly to a qualifying non-for-profit institution without recognizing the assets transferred as income. If you are 70½ or older and are required to take a "Minimum Required Distribution" (MRD) from an IRA this year, you might want to consider making such a donation this year. For more information, contact your tax or financial advisor.

Thank you all for your support of the Sheffield Historical Society in both time and treasure and I look forward to seeing you this year at one of our events.

H. Dennis Sears
President, Sheffield Historical Society
HDennisSears@verizon.net

The Mark Dewey Research Center

The research and reference aspect of the Society, represented by our Mark Dewey Research Center, has completed another successful year in assisting people with historic questions that commonly serves authors, both historical and fictional, usually seeking hard facts as well as perspicacity; house and family history researchers; name origins (Bow Wow Road is a common one); demographics; local slavery (Yes, it existed here.) trees (If you can imagine.) and Black history, among many others. The inquiries number in the hundreds annually and come by walk in, telephone, USPS and e-mail. Although there are slow periods, at times we are overwhelmed. During the lulls the all-volunteer staff does housekeeping activities related to preservation of the permanent collection which grows apace, primarily through donations by patrons who are grateful for the use of our resources.

Aside from our day-to-day program, we reached two milestones this past year, namely the acquisition of a local historical collection from the estate of Ursula Kilner and the services of Taylor Neil, a young, enthusiastic and energetic volunteer archivist.

An occasion we may not see again was the splendid acquisition of Ursula's library from her estate. She was an early member of the Society, and a certified genealogist, which explains the vastness of her collection. It covered, among many other subjects, town histories of Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York, county histories of the same areas and a number of published genealogies related to families of the tri-state area. The volumes added to our collection number in the hundreds. Her research manuscripts, now in Ohio being organized, will follow.

This acquisition, indeed, puts the Society in the position of being a significant research facility for the tri-state area. It is doubtful that anybody doing historical work on South County can safely ignore our collection.

Taylor, our most recent volunteer, will be a junior at Mount Everett this fall. His summer time contribution is a perfect fit for the Society since one of our regular volunteers takes that season off. We hope to have Taylor's talents for at least two more years but hope for even more. His ultimate goal is to become a lawyer.

Drop in sometime to see the new acquisitions and to meet the volunteers. We are open to the public on Mondays and Fridays, 1:30 to 4:00 or by appointment if a volunteer is available. We also post home phone numbers at the Center in the event of a casual out of town drop in.

Betty Chapin, James Miller, Taylor Neil, David Prouty, volunteers

Sheffield Historical Society FY 2011 Supporter's List

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George T. Smith
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Paula Wardynski
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Anthony & Marjorie Consolini	Philip & Susan Lebowitz

Individual cont.

Al Trocchi Dorothy Marosy Elsie West C. Twiggs Myers Alan F. Buckes Barbara Jacquette Christopher Coenen & Amanda Morgan Alice Leason Dr. Dorothea Franklin Ann Riou Natalie & Maree Funk Elizabeth & William Wilson Allen County Public Library Dr. Margaret Gulick Nancy Wilde Hahn Louis Levine & Pat Molholt Douglas & Candida Logan Virginia M. Jackson-Howden Norman & Barbara Margolis Donald & Franziska Kenney Margaret Mitchell Marsha & David Pottle Norma Moulton Dick & Doris Richardson Istar Mudge Edmund A. & Arlene P. Grossman Patrice Mullin Marion Whitman Tom & Kathy Orlando Peter Traub Mr. & Mrs. Tician Papachristou Steven Borns Wesley Peterson Frederic Gordon & Kathy Dean Ken & Joan Powers Lois VanCleef Jessica Roseman Claire Height Norman Schnayer & Joyce Freundlich Jack & Sandra French John & Irma Sisson Anthony Sabatelli Evelyn Small Dana & Chris Williams Betsy Smith



The Finance and Audit Committee

The Finance and 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.

Collections Committee

During the fiscal year a major addition to the Society's collection was the purchase of numerous letters, dating from 1807-37, written to and by members of the Little Family relating to activities in the Dan Raymond House in Sheffield, currently one of the Society's headquarters buildings. Another contribution comes in the form of a mid-20th century wedding dress, designed by John Burbidge, which expands our collection of period wedding gowns and costumes.

The estate of Ursula Kilner, a former Sheffield Historical Society member, donated several hundred books, many being important genealogical sources, which we incorporated into the Society's research library, with some material given to other local Historical Societies, where appropriate. The bulk of the donation was sold, in a major effort on the part of many volunteers, to various educational organizations, local book dealers and to the general public thereby generating several thousands of dollars of unexpected and most welcomed income.

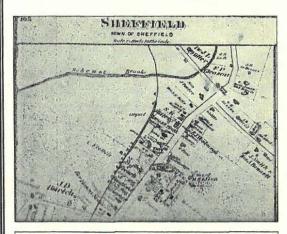
Finally, the task to transcribe details of the Society's collection from paper inventory sheets onto a computer software program for ease of reference is ongoing. Philip S. Detjens, Director

The Program Committee

The Program Committee has worked hard this past year to bring you quality speakers and interesting material. Speakers have included Dennis Picard showing us how the well equipped Civil War volunteer might turn out, Ed Kirby talked about the Iron industry in the Housatonic Valley, Dr. MaryNell Morgan-Brown presented a program on W.E.B. DuBois, and we followed in the footsteps of general Knox's march through the Berkshires with Bruce Rueger. And Chris Coenen again tried to stump the crowd in our annual What's It Night.

Other programs for the year included a tribute to Martin Luther King, the writers of the new book, On the Other Side of Glory: the Berkshire Men of the 54th Volunteer Infantry Regiment and our annual Old Stone Store Tastings and the Sheffield Historical Society Holiday Party.

We have lots of exciting and educational—and just plain fun—programs lined up for the new year, so we hope you can join us.



James R. Miller and Taylor Neil curate an exhibit of local maps illustrating some of the changes that have taken place in South County, primarily Sheffield, from the date of the earliest map, 1722, to the 21st century.

The Sheffield Historical Society presents:

A new exhibit at The Old Stone Store

August 6 to Late September, 2011

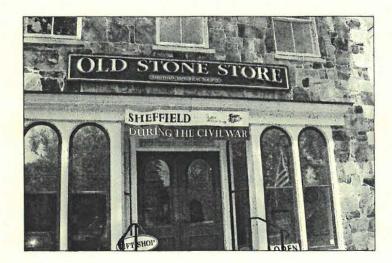
TALKING MAPS
THESE MAPS TELL STORIES

The closer you look the more stories are uncovered!

June –July Exhibit: Sheffield During the Civil War

The exhibit ran from May 21st to August 1st.







SHS President, Dennis Sears, and volunteer researcher, Taylor Neil, carry the Society banner in the parade.



SHS Shows the Old Way to get from the Station to the Farm.

Passenger Seat - Betty Chapin, Right Rear Seat - Susan Pitman, Left Rear Seat - Kathy Tetro, Driver and owner of the 190X Ford Station Wagon is Natale Marasco.



SHS Shows the New Way to get from the station to the farm!

Driver and owner of the Mini Cooper convertible—Brian Levinsohn, Passenger Seat – Paul O'Brien, Rear Seat Right – Lois Levinsohn, Rear Seat Left – Dorothy Marosy.

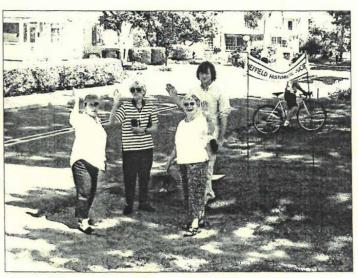
The Sheffield Historical Society Out & About

The town of Great Barrington celebrated their 250th year with a parade through downtown. The Sheffield Historical Society showed our support by marching - and driving—in the parade and joined in the fun and excitement of the day., always happy to share our heritage.



SHS Prepares for the Long March.

Left to right; Taylor Neil, Dennis Sears, Susan Pitman, Brian & Lois Levinsohn, Paul O'Brien, Dorothy Marosy and Betty Chapin.



Ready to go!

Lois Levinsohn,, Dorothy Marosy, Betty Chapin and Taylor Neil are on their way.



SA FIRST CLASS ORDER

Dan Raymond House Museum * Mark Dewey Research Center * Old Stone Store

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 transmit that heritage to current and future generations.

WWW.SHEFFIELDHISTORY.ORG

137-161 Main Street P.O. Box 747 Sheffield, MA 01257

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

The Mark Dewey Research Center is open Monday & Friday, 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., or by appointment.

Phone: 413-229-3682
Email: mdrc@sheffieldhistory.org

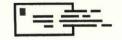
Catherine and Jim Miller [L] P.O.Box 7 Root Lane Sheffield, MA 01257



Paperless possibilities!

Help insure your contributions to the Sheffield Historical Society go farther—we are trying to save money and volunteer time by moving interested members to an electronic e-mail format. Receive your quarterly newsletter right on your computer and have fewer papers cluttering up your life! Plus, you can read it from wherever you have access to your e-mail account. If you would prefer to receive your Society newsletters via your computer, please let us know.

This is an <u>opt-in</u> alternative. You will continue to receive your newsletter in a hard copy format unless you request otherwise. If you are interested, please contact us via email, by phone or through our website. If you do decide to go paperless, please make sure we have the correct email account address that you would like us to send your newsletter to.



Thank you!

The Sheffield Historical Society



Summer 2012

HISTORIC BARNARD BROTHERS of SHEFFIELD

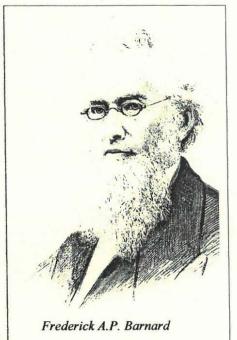
On September 14, The Sheffield Historical Society will present Gerald (Rory) O'Connor, who will speak about his two illustrious ancestors, Sheffield natives, Civil war Brigadier-General John Gross Barnard and his brother, Frederick A.P. Barnard, onetime president of Columbia University.

General Barnard and his brother Frederick were the sons of Colonel Robert Foster Barnard and Augusta Porter Barnard. Frederick Barnard was the elder son, born in Sheffield in 1809. He graduated from Yale College and became a professor of mathematics and natural philosophy at the University of Alabama, and eventually chancellor of the University Mississippi. He served there until the outbreak of the Civil War, when, his sympathies being with the North, he resigned. He took over as president of Columbia College in 1864 and served there for Although unsuccessful in his twenty-five years. attempts to allow the admittance of women to the college, after his death an affiliated college for women was established and named Barnard in his honor. In 1893 Columbia University erected a memorial chapel in Sheffield's Center Cemetery in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Barnard, which can be visited to this day.

The younger son John was born in 1815 on the Barnard homestead, built in 1780 by his grandfather, Aaron Root and called Netherby Hall. It is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Mott and site of the recent Historical Society Garden Party. At the age of 14 he entered the United States Military Academy at West Point, graduating at second rank in one of the

strongest classes the Academy had ever produced. Barnard was then assigned to the Army Corps of engineers, engaged in the construction of Fort Schuyler, the fortifications of Pensacola and Mobile Harbors and defenses around battlefields during the Mexican War.

During the Civil War, as chief engineer of the army of the Potomac, Gen-



eral Barnard was put in charge of defense construction around the capital at Washington, D.C. He was cited five times for "gallant and meritorious services" in both the Mexican and the Civil War.* After General Barnard's death in 1882, the Army and Navy Journal gave him this tribute: "If a marble monument should be erected, ... of the life and work of General John G. Barnard, enough could be read, not only to satisfy the pride of all his kindred who shall come after him, but to convey a lesson as to how much may be accomplished in the life of one man". * No Sheffield soldier of any time has risen to a higher rank than he. In 1937 the town park just north of the village green in Sheffield was dedicated to General Barnard and his brother, Frederick A.P. Barnard.

Gerald O'Conner is one of General Barnard's four

From the President

Thank you

I would like to take this opportunity to say "THANK YOU" to all of our friends who continue to support the Sheffield Historical Society! I am so pleased to see the many, many volunteers who come out and give their time to the Society. Just in the past few months, volunteers have staffed the Old Stone Store and exhibits, stood behind the Easter bake sale table, helped out at our Golf Tournament, and created a fabulous garden party! Our annual appeal is going very well, our membership of over three hundred people have been very generous in helping the Society continue with the good work we are known for. It is because of all of you that we are able to maintain our historic properties and programs.

This year, because of the generosity of our members, we were able to award a five hundred dollar scholarship to Brittany Siter. Ms Siter is a 2012 graduate of Mount Everett Regional School and will be attending the University of Rhode Island, majoring in Political Science.

News on our buildings

You may have noticed a new roof on the Education Building, directly behind the Dan Raymond House. The old roof was beyond repair, we now have a new thirty year roof protecting the building. The Mark Dewey Research Center roof is also in need of repair. The cedar roof has acquired a disturbing layer of moss. In some

cases moss on an old roof is quaint, not so in this situation. The layer of moss has deteriorated the roofing material to the point where it needs to be replaced before the winter sets in.

Upcoming events

We have some exciting events coming this fall beginning with Sheffield in Celebration and continuing with the Sheffield Spiritfest (watch your email and the website for the details) in October.

Back to school education initiatives

Our Administrator, Barbara Dowling and I will be working with the students and staff of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District to re-introduce the Sheffield Historical Society to the children of the district (if you are interested in working with us on this please drop us a line).

A thank you to our outgoing board members and welcome to our incoming board members

A big thank you to Marcia Brolli, Kathy Tetro, Dennis Sears and Greig Siedor for their years of dedicated service. Dennis Sears will be stepping down as President, but will remain as a board member as well as our Funds Manager. We have three new board members, Lisa Reynold, Kent "KC" Clow and Jeff Browne, welcome and thank you all!

Paul O'Brien President



Harry Conklin and Ted Pitman tend bar at the Summer Garden party.



Ross Hawkins, Bob Brigham, Dennis Sears and Iona Brigham sit and enjoy a glass of wine in the gardens.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Old Stone Store - open for the season - Saturdays & Sundays 11:00 to 3:00

SHS programs at Dewey Memorial Hall:

Friday, September 14th 7:30 p.m.

The Barnards - Gerald O'Connor will talk about Sheffield natives General John Barnard, Chief Engineer of the Union Army, and Professor Frederick Barnard, President of Columbia University and namesake of Barnard College.

Friday, October 12th 7:30 p.m.

Post and beam Architecture - Learn about timber framing with Jack Sobon.

Friday, November 9th 7:30 p.m.

Opening Reception - Festival of Holidays —Enjoy a drink and some early-bird holiday shopping at the Old Stone Store.

December

Sheffield Historical Society Holiday Party - at the Dan Raymond House

Friday, January 11th 7:30 p.m.

The Knox Trail - Bernie Drew will present a program on his newest book, Henry Knox & the Revolutionary War Trail in Western Massachusetts, and the history of the Knox Trail.

Exhibits:

July 21st through September 2nd

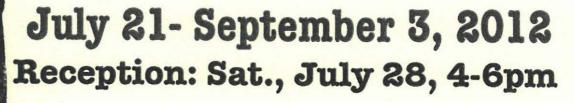
Drawing the Line: Political Cartoons in America - Paul Banevicius shares his collection of political cartoons in this election year - some humorous, some poignant, and some downright nasty! At the Old Stone Store. Don't miss this one!!!

		Place your message here. For maximum	impact, use two or three sentences.	
The Sheffield His	storical Socie	ety invites the support of you a	and your friends through men	nbership.
Name(s)			E-Mail	
Address				
Please check:	New	Renew Membership for y	ear July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2	013
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DRAWING THE LINE:

Political Cartoons in America

Featuring Original
Art & Sketches
from the Collection
of Paul Banevicius



at the Old Stone Store Gallery on the Green in Sheffield, Massachusetts



Gallery Hours: Open Saturdays & Sundays 11-3 or by appointment. Call 413-229-1129 for more info.

The Year Without a Summer

Material for this article came from a collection of letters, recently gifted to The Society, written by Sarah Townsend Hale to her nephews Hosea and Hiram Townsend in Ohio. Liberties have been taken with spelling and punctuation.

Everybody, as you know, is talking about the weather. One hot summer! But take yourself back almost 200 years, 1816 to be exact, and you would have experienced the opposite, the year without a summer, when there was a killing frost in every summer month. In that year local farm fields were cemeteries of cornstalks. A severe drought had left them brown, withered and dead, with starvation lurking about.

There were suggestions early in the spring of a cool summer. Mid May had unusually low temperatures accompanied by frosts as far south as Virginia. In the Berkshires "the ground froze hard and high wind May first. Scarce a green thing to be seen, very cold need a good fire," reported Sarah Townsend Hale to her nephews in Ohio.

After a warmer start to June it quickly turned colder with a mix of rain and snow in Quebec and light snow in the Adirondacks. On June 7th, 12 inches of snow blanketed portions of New England sparking the talk of famine for the first time. Sarah further reported, "there is much said about the scarcity of fodder [for the animals] which tis very dear."

June was bad enough but July started out no better. A killing frost crossed New England destroying corn, bean, cucumber and squash crops. Fortunately, hardier wheat, rye and potatoes did much better. On June 20th, Sarah wrote "We have a most extraordinary season as yet such never known here before. Grass very thin & late, corn small & much curled . . . where there is any, looking as if it would never come to anything. It appears unaccountable that there is anything, ground froze hard middle of May & the 7th of June hard snow . . . 6th of June & everything cut down with frost. 1st of July frost. "Milder weather contin-

ued well into August when another frost hit, damaging crops further. On August 20th a powerful cold front crossed the Northeast bringing violent thunderstorms and reports of temperatures falling as much as 30 degrees within minutes. The summer growing season came to an end on August 28, aborted by yet another frost which brought ice to local lakes.

The impact of the season was severe, with too little food for animals taken in for the winter season. Fortunately there were enough grains and potatoes harvested to prevent a full blown famine but hardship did occur with Sarah writing, "the season is so cold & backward winter grain was not harvested till 8 and 10 August . . . and the spring wheat & rye till the last week . . . in September. The corn does not ripen." The result was grain tripled in value and the shortage forced farmers to sell their cows and pigs, driving the price of meat down. Beef fell over 50 per cent and pork 75 per cent. The following year, 1817, marked a major migration of locals westward to New York and beyond.

What was the cause of this weather? Religious fundamentalist blamed sinners and some even blamed the scientific experiments Benjamin Franklin had done with lightning rods. But the likely cause was the eruption of Tambora volcano on the island of Soembawa in Indonesia on April 15th, 1815, a year previous. The eruption was a super colossal event which killed nearly 10,000 people immediately and another estimate 80,000 from starvation and illness. According to estimates 1.7 million tons of dust were put into the atmosphere, reaching North America about 12 months later.

A year of poverty, 1816, the year without a summer, came to an end.

James R. Miller

Join us at the Sheffield Historical Society Salad Bar during Sheffield in Celebration, September 8th.

Fairground food has never been this good or this good for you! Plus free internet genealogy! Bring your family infor-



mation to get started on an educational, lifelong hobby.

Summer Garden Party 2012



Lisa Reynolds, Rusty Mott, Herb Abelow and Carolyn Fulton discuss the silent auction items.



Paul Banevicius and Paul O'Brien share a tall tale while in the background (left to right) Susan Pitman, Ted Pitman, Jim Miller and Sharon Casdin enjoy the party.



Susan Pitman, Dr. Peter Elsbach and Patricia Elsbach in the garden.



Kathy Tetro passes hors d'oeuvres to Barbara Burns, Marilyn Wightman and Patrick Burns.

Summer Garden Party

On July 15th, the Sheffield Historical Society, along with friends and supporters, were out in force celebrating the season with a not-to-be-missed Summer Party in the wonderful gardens of Netherby Hall, home of Veta and Rusty Mott. The weather threatened rain and a few drops fell, but even that wasn't enough to dampen the spirits of all who attended. And when the sun eventually made its appearance, the glory of the gardens drew many to wander and admire.

Many thanks to all who made our Summer Garden Fundraiser so much fun and such a success! Foremost thanks go to Veta and Rusty Mott, who shared their beautiful gardens with us and provided such a wonderful site for our afternoon event. Susan Pitman and Kathy Tetro worked hard as co-chairs for the party and it would never have happened without them. Thanks also to the summer party committee - Veta Mott, Lois Levinsohn, Carolyn Fulton, Sharon Palma, Phyllis Webb, and Catherine Miller. And our hearts thank - but our waistlines not necessarily - all those who brought hors d'oeuvres, sweets and other goodies for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you to our Corporate Sponsors Berkshire Region Legacy Bank and Salisbury Bank as well as for the support of the Sheffield Cultural Council. Our appreciation also to the donors of our silent auction items: Kathy and Tom Tetro, Paul Banevicius, The Magic Fluke, The Hungry Hen, Ward's Nursery, The MarketPlace, Body & Soul, Tom Ingersoll, the Garden Goddesses and Barrington Stage Company. The Beautiful flower arrangements were created by MaryEllen O'Brien.

And, of course, our appreciation to all of you who came and supported the event.

We hope everyone had a good time and we look forward to you joining us for other Historical Society events!





A small part of the beautiful gardens of Netherby



Trudy Weaver-Miller, Dr. Peter Elsbach and Patricia Elsbach enjoy the sun and the gardens.



Veta Mott draws the winning ticket for the door prize while Kathy Tetro and Susan Pitman look on.



Dan Raymond House Museum * Mark Dewey Research Center * Old Stone Store

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 transmit that heritage to current and future generations.

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137-161 Main Street P.O. Box 747 Sheffield, MA 01257 Phone: 413-229-2694

Email: shs@sheffieldhistory.org

The Mark Dewey Research Center is open Monday & Friday,

1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., or by appointment.

Phone: 413-229-3682

Email: mdrc@sheffieldhistory.org

The Old Stone Store On the Green in Sheffield Phone: 413-229-2287

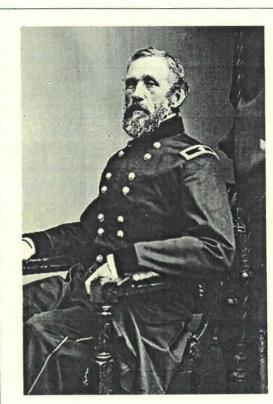
The Barnards - continued from p. 1

great grandsons. Gerald, called Rory, grew up on a dairy farm on Hulett Road in Sheffield near the New Marlborough town line. He graduated from Berkshire School and Trinity College in Hartford, Conn. He left Sheffield at age 26 to work as a newspaper reporter in Connecticut but eventually migrated back to the Berkshires to work for the Berkshire Eagle, remaining there until his retirement in 1994. He is married to the former Claire Warner of Sheffield. They have three sons, a daughter and five grandchildren, and now live in Central Vermont.

Mr. O'Connor's program, "Historic Barnard Brothers of Sheffield" will be held at Dewey Hall in Sheffield on Friday, September 14, at 7:30 p.m. The program is free and open to the Public.

Joyce Hawkins

*quotations and other source material from: Lillian E. Preiss, <u>Sheffield</u>, <u>Frontier Town</u>, pub. 1976 —on sale in the Old Stone Store

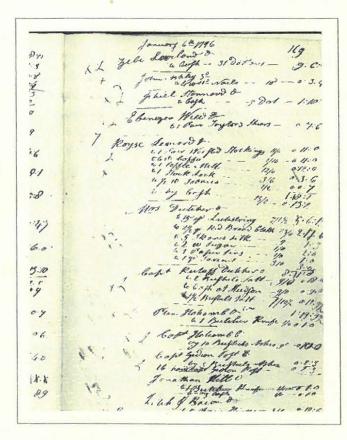


Brigadier-General John G. Barnard

The Sheffield Historical Society



Winter 2013



A long-term loan of unprecedented importance came to the Society through the thoughtfulness of member Joseph C. Hurlburt formerly of Ashley Falls who was raised there in the William Ashley House by parents Walter and Alice. In short, the loan materials are key to the reconstruct of the daily life of Sheffielders in the 18th and 19th century and constitute, perhaps, the most significant addition to our knowledge of locals' lives at that time.

The collection's major feature is several 18th and 19th century account books and family

A GIANT LEAP FORWARD TO THE 18TH CENTURY

correspondence relating to the tri-state area, the Ashley family and its extensive business enterprises which were centered along the Konkapot River in what eventually came to be known as Ashley Falls. Until now only one 18th century account book relating to Sheffield is known locally and it is not in the possession of the Society.

The Hurlburt collection is invaluable to social and economic historians, yielding insights into the local human condition and material culture in such areas as housing, diet, health and medicine, textiles and clothing, livestock and personal property values plus the cost of labor. Other accounts contain information on the family's saw, carding, dyeing, fulling and grist mills along with its nail manufactory for the same time frame. In its totality, the collection paints a clear commercial and economic picture of Sheffield and the surrounding area beginning before the American Revolution and extending 200 years beyond.

The documents are also useful to family historians, reducing dependence on the federal decennial census reports that begin only in 1790 and offer very limited content. Conveniently the collection is largely self-indexed with the names of account holders entered alphabetically followed by an item-by-item list of goods both purchased from and sold to the Ashley general store from year to year.

Watch for an exhibit at the Old Stone Store next summer, highlighting the collection, with the most interesting revelations scheduled for release at that time.

From the President

Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a happy and restful new year. The Sheffield Historical Society is catching its breath from a very busy year and is gearing up for another full year of activities. We are well rested and ready for another great year!

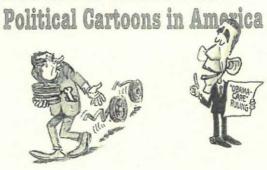


The Garden Goddesses at work - Veta Mott, Kathy Tetro, Sharon Palmer, Susan Pitman and Carolyn Fulton.

Events and Exhibits Our exhibits at the Old Stone Store, our monthly lecture series and our fundraising activities all received rave reviews and record attendance this past year. We added a golf outing, Spiritfest, Candy Cane Carnival, Garden Party and a volunteer recognition cookout. This upcoming year we have three major exhibits scheduled, Antique Toys, Unmentionables, and the Ashley Family records. The Sheffield Historical Society will be hosting a Garden Club of America Flower Show in conjunction with the Lenox Garden Club to kick off our month long Spiritfest. The flower show, "Berkshire Haunts" will feature floral arrangements, horticultural displays and photographs. There will be a special 'Preview Party" to open the show. Watch our website, emails and mailings for more on these exciting events.

> Paul O'Brien President

DRAWING THE LINE:



40th Year The Sheffield Historical Society is in the middle of it's 40th year as an organization. I am so grateful for the fine work our founders did back in 1972 when they took up the task of creating the society. I am reminded every time I walk through our properties, look through our archives or talk with our Members, how hard they worked to make this society the success that it is today. We are all proud to be members of the Sheffield Historical Society. We will have a chance to show that pride at a 40th year celebration during our annual meeting in June of 2013, so bring your memories and appetites!



Susan Pitman, Brian Levinsohn and Catherine Miller as three scary spirits!

Sheffield Historical Society Board members:

Paul O'Biren (President), Wray Gunn (Vice President), Lois Levinsohn (Treasurer), Susan Pitman (Secretary), Dennis Sears, Jeff Browne, Joyce Hawkins, Lisa Reynolds, Paul Banevicius, and K.C. Clow.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Old Stone Store - closed for the season

SHS programs at Dewey Memorial Hall:

Friday, February 8th Murders, Accidents & Sudden Deaths in Sheffield – 7:30

Join Society Administrator, Barbara Dowling, as she relates tales of strange and sometimes tragic events from Sheffield's past.

Friday, March 8th Slavery & Freedom in Berkshire County - 7:30 p.m.

Professor Frances Jones-Sneed tells of our African-American

Heritage here in the Berkshires.

Friday, April 12th Native Americans in South County - 7:30 p.m.

Bartholomew's Cobble Ranger, Rene Wendall, talks about the presence of Native Americans here in Sheffield and the vicinity.

Friday, May 10th Gold Star Mothers - 7:30 p.m.

Greg Siedor presents a program on Sheffield natives who died in

World War Two.

Friday, June 14th SHS Annual Meeting - 7:30 p.m.

40th Year celebration and ice cream social!!!

For more information on What's Going on in Sheffield?** Visit the Sheffield Community Calendarhttp://www.localendar.com/public/SheffieldCalendar

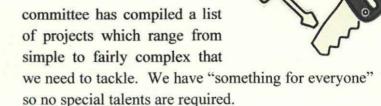
Name(s)		E-Mail
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Please check: New	Renew	
Individual (\$15 - \$50)	Family(\$51 - \$100)	Patron (\$101 - \$500) Sponsor (\$501 -

Work Weekend - April 20th & 21st

We, as members of the Sheffield Historical Society, are very fortunate to have 5 buildings of local historical importance under our stewardship.

While we all enjoy using these buildings for our various activities, we must also ensure that they remain in good condition so that we can continue to enjoy them in the future. Therefore, we are reaching out to the entire membership to join us

on the weekend of April 20 & 21 for our first annual SHS Work Weekend. The building and grounds



Please join your fellow members as we put a shine on our campus and ready it for the coming summer season. Give however much time you can - one hour or 2 days - we'll welcome it all. It promises to be a fun and rewarding time so please join us.

More details will follow in the next newsletter.

Jeff Browne

Come join us!

SpiritFest

The October SpiritFest was a new activity for the Society this past fall. The Society built upon the always popular Spiritwalk by adding a Zombie building contest, a pumpkin carving contest and a scary movie night. Unfortunately, the majority of the activities took place during the north east's version of a haunting - Hurricane Sandy! Although a few of the activities were canceled, those in attendance for the Spirit Walk, Zombie building and scary movie enjoyed a spirited adventure. SpiritFest 2013 will be bigger and better with the addition of a Garden Club of America flower show "Berkshire Haunts."



Annual Appeal & Membership 2012

Dan Raymond Circle

Sharon Casdin

Benefactors

Deborah Reich Paul & Carol Collins Dennis Sears & Rene Wood

Sponsors

Thomas Dixon Jim & Catherine Miller Brian & Lois Levinsohn Emily & John Alexander Sandra Wijnberg Wesley McCain & Noreene Storrie Frank & Kimba Richardson Carol and Joseph Reich

Patrons

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Patricia and Dr. Peter Elsbach Don Freedman & Susan Rothschild Carolyn Fulton Ruth & Susan Gillette Tracy Goodnow Joyce and Ross Hawkins Bruce Howden & David Prouty John Hull III John James & Kathie Ness Mary and Charles Joch, Jr. James and Beverly Kimball Richard & Athena Kimball Allison Lassoe Alice Lustig Jon MacClaren & Christopher Sink Kent Mauk Robert Mercurio & Joe Kolodziej Gary & Jean Miller Donald & Roswitha Mott

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Mark Bachetti

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Steven Borns
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Stephen Rosenheck & Virginia

Goldner

Anthony Sabatelli Bob and Ann Shanks

Evelyn Small

Judith and Ron Timm

Lois VanCleef Paula Wardynski Jackie Weaver Elsie West

Marion Whitman Lynn and Bill Wood

We need your help!

The Sheffield Historical Society is reaching out to its many members by inviting them to become actively involved in several of our committees. The work of the society is very important to our community, and the work of our many volunteers aids the society in promoting its mission in our community. The committees listed below are looking for volunteers. If you have already volunteered for our other activities, THANK YOU! If you haven't volunteered and would like to consider helping out, please contact us, by email (shs@sheffieldhistory.org) or by calling us at 229-2694.

Committees:

Exhibitions * Collections * Buildings and Grounds * Making items for the OSS * Fund Raising * Education

Thank you.





Catherine Miller demonstrates a holiday craft at the Candy Cane Carnival



Strolling in the beautiful gardens of Netherby Hall at the Summer Garden Party.





Thank you, Berkshire Bank!

Berkshire Bank's "Renew & Reuse Technology Partnership Program" recently awarded the Sheffield Historical Society three complete computer systems. The refurbished computers are in use by the Society at the Dan Raymond House and the Mark Dewey Research Center. Many thanks to Berkshire Bank for their generous donation.



Dan Raymond House Museum * Mark Dewey Research Center * Old Stone Store

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 transmit that heritage to current and future generations.

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137-161 Main Street P.O. Box 747 Sheffield, MA 01257 Phone: 413-229-2694

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Email: shs@sheffieldhistory.org

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Phone: 413-229-3682

Email: mdrc@sheffieldhistory.org

The Old Stone Store On the Green in Sheffield Phone: 413-229-2287

Murders, Accidents & Sudden Deaths...and a few other tantalizing tidbits from Sheffield history

All right, let's all admit that we secretly like a good tale about robberies and cannibalism, murders and ghosts. We're only human after all. But so were our ancestors in this area, as everywhere and every time else, and Southern Berkshire County has its own tales to tell of accidents, weather run amok or just the baser side of human nature. Now is the chance to hear it all without any of the guilt – it's history, not the National Enquirer!

The Sheffield Historical Society's February program will feature Society Administrator, Barbara Dowling, relating tales of just such interesting happenings from around the area in times past. The program entitled "Murders, Accidents and Sudden Deaths in Sheffield," will be held Friday, February 8th at 7:30 p.m. in Dewey Memorial Hall. Learn about the murders, tragedies, floods, poltergeists and even a very sticky situation that took place as part of our history. You won't want to miss this one!

As always, our programs are free and open to the public. There'll be refreshments and friends to meet after the speaker runs out of steam. Hope you can make it.

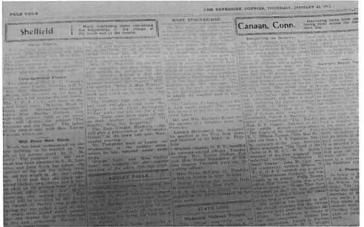


Neal Chamberlain portrays stagecoach blacksmith, Jonathan Graham, for the 2012 Spirit Walk.

The Sheffield Historical Society The state of the state

Fall 2013

Sheffield 100 Years Ago: Selected items, from The Berkshire Couriers, 1913, extensively condensed and edited.



January 2. Fire gutted the interior of A.M. Little's general store. The building was saved from destruction by the prompt and efficient service rendered by the telephone operator, Miss Elizabeth McDonnell, who was awakened by a choking sensation caused by the heavy smoke which poured into the office. She quickly went to the switchboard and commenced calling members of the volunteer fire company. In this way a number of men were soon on the scene and dragged the hose cart to the building. The plucky telephone operator stuck to the board while the fire was being fought below. It was only when she was able to operate the switchboard by touch alone, because of the dense smoke and when she had literally been driven from the building by some of the firemen, that Miss McDonnell left the room. Note: The structure, now gone, was just south of the Congregational Church.

January 30. The question of electric street lighting has been discussed again of late and further negotiations have been started. The old kerosene street lamps are almost of no use at best. What lights are provided now are under the care of the Village Improvement Association.

April 3. The annual town meeting was held in Sheffield last Monday. The day was one of sunshine and shadow in proportion of one part sunshine to about nineteen parts shadow, with wind and rain thrown in, but there was a good turnout of voters in the forenoon and the church sheds overflowed with teams whose owners were discussing candidates and town matters. **April 10.** The adjourned town meeting opened at 2:30 o'clock Monday afternoon. Moderator Cande presided. George Hall moved that \$1500 be appropriated for an agriculture course in the high school. Mr. Roraback argued that the expense of the course would be about \$700 to the town and that already the tax rate was too high. F. B. French advised that the town wait a year and see what success was had in Stockbridge. Following Mr. French's remarks the question was unanimously voted down. Stockbridge also later voted it down.

James M. Wallace is to move his barber shop to new rooms in about two weeks. The new shop will be fitted up in the manner of all up-to-date barber shops, with modern facilities, including hot and cold water. **April 17.** A good 25 cent supper will be served this Thursday evening from 5:30 to 8 o'clock at the inn of George G. Peck. The proceeds will go toward the lighting of the streets and everyone is urged to attend.

Milton & Marion Barnum and the Barnum Tool Collection

When you ask people with a twenty year or more Sheffield connection - locally born, transplants, second home owners or visitors, what couple they think best represents Sheffield qualities, you'll get a lot of great names. Ask them to narrow it down to who best represents traditional Yankee qualities; you'll get a smaller list. Ask them to narrow it down to who best helped preserve the look and feel of Sheffield, the list gets even smal

ler. Finally, ask them who on the remaining list they think of when they hear the words "Sheffield Historical Society", and I'll bet you the names you'll hear most are Milton and Marion Barnum.

René and I first met Milt, as everyone knew him, and Marion over 25 years ago when, as weekend Staveleigh House visitors, we were invited to one of the wonderful turkey dinners the Sheffield Historical Society held in the Legion Hall. Milt started the fundraising dinners to restore the old covered bridge. I had no understanding then that, years later, I would be getting up in the morning, looking at the Covered Bridge and the American Legion, thinking of those great turkey dinners, and remember all of the wonderful people we've met there. After just one sample of Milt and Marion Barnum's talents in putting on the "SHS Turkey Dinner", especially after experiencing Marion's lemon meringue pie, we were hooked as members and volunteers of the Sheffield Historical Society.



As we talked with the Barnums and listened to stories about them from others over the years, we came to the conclusion that without them the Sheffield Historical Society would probably not exist today, or, at the very least, would be a much different organization. Milt was one of the 7 citizens with the foresight to establish the Sheffield Historical Society. During the start-up of the Society, Milt partnered with Ed Warren to buy and hold the Dan Raymond House property until the Society could take ownership. Milt used his building skills to lead the Dan Raymond property renovation and guide the volunteer labor he rounded up for the task. I could talk about his similar work with the Mark Dewey Research Center, the Parker Law office, the construction of the well house, relocation of the smokehouse from the Episcopal Church grounds, etc., but I'd soon run out of Newsletter space without getting to the major point I want to talk about: Milt's tools.

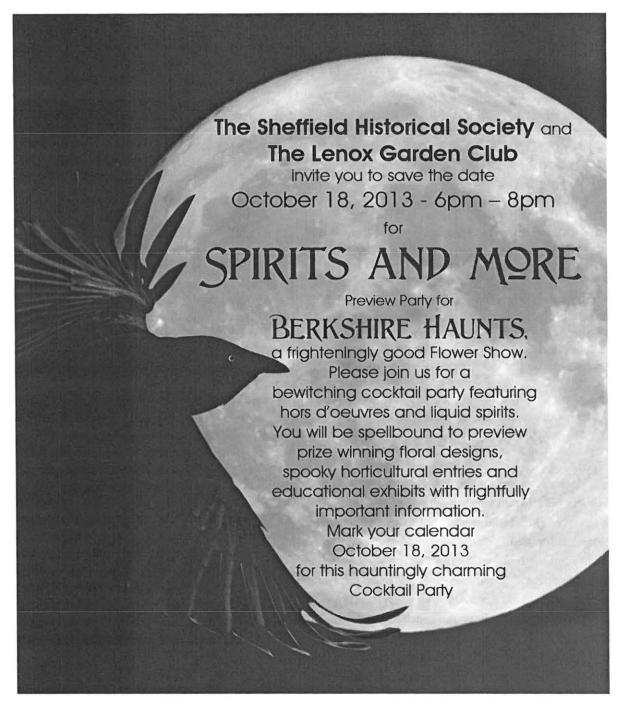
Milt's tools are a legend on their own. One of the first Sheffield Historical Society programs I remember was "What's It? Night". This was my first introduction to another Milt and Marion Barnum phenomenon: the Barnum tool collection. In this program held annually for many years in January at Dewey Hall, 30 or more "tools" were selected from the Barnum collection of over 1,000, placed on tables and the audience would have a certain amount of time before the start of the program to look at all of them, and guess what it was called or used for. Years later I would visit Milt and Marion, and he'd let me pick out items from the place they were stored or from those Marion held sway over in the house. We'd sit in the kitchen, chat, and he'd explain the use of each item. I'd take a photo and create a cheat sheet, which I used the few times I had the honor of leading the program. The story of how the Barnums acquired some of the tools is also very interesting and perhaps a topic for a future SHS Newsletter.

The Barnum family has generously allowed the Society to purchase the entire Barnum Tool Collection below market value, and we have accepted their offer. During Milt's life, he used these items to educate not only Society members and the children of South County in the ways of the past, but also allowed their use in various programs and exhibits. Our plan is to continue the Barnum legacy and use the Barnum Tool Collection to give children and adults a deeper, hands-on appreciation of local history and a look at a way of life long passed.

To continue this legacy created by Milt and Marion Barnum, the Society is establishing the "Milt and Marion Barnum Tool Collection" on Society property and seeks your financial support in order to hold, maintain, and properly display it, as well as continue to make it available for educational purposes. To that end, the Society has a goal to build a modest structure to house the tools and honor the legacy established by Milt and Marion. Our goal is to raise at least \$25,000 to meet the collection purchase price balance and construction costs. The Society has received a challenge grant which will match dollar for dollar every dollar of the first \$10,000 raised.

We invite you to consider a gift to help us meet this challenge reach the goal we have set. If you have any questions, contact me or one of the other two members of The Milt and Marion Barnum Tool Collection Committee, Jeff Browne and Paul O'Brien.

I thank you for your consideration of this idea and hope you will help us honor a couple who gave much to this country and Sheffield for over 80 years.



Reasons to Reserve Your Ticket Today:

-Reserving your ticket is easier than ever before!
-You'll get \$10 off your ticket price for buying in advance
-You'll be the first to know the prize winners of the local and national awards for the displays
-You'll ensure your spot at the Halloween social event of the season!

Advance Tickets: \$30 At the Door: \$40

Reserve online at www.sheffieldhistory.org or mail us your name, number of guests, and payment.

Community Connections

"The welfare of each is bound up in the welfare of all."- Helen Keller

I'm sure we've all heard it said that success can be a direct result of who you know. No man is an island, there's no "I" in "Team," many hands make light work, and all those other clichés. The trick, though, is trying to figure out how all of that translates into real efforts that can be made to help a place like the Sheffield Historical Society. Over the past month or so, we've been exploring just that: how we can forge stronger connections throughout our community in order to gain mutual benefits on a number of fronts.

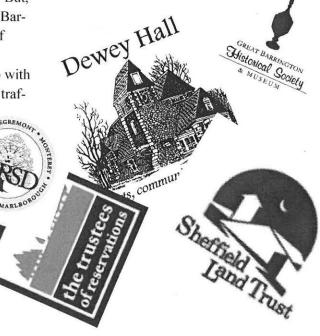
One area where we have started making connections is, logically, other local historic organizations. Sheffield is full of them, and, when you take that even a bit further into the rest of the Berkshires and across the border into Connecticut, there is a huge pool of resources, many of which have been standing on their own, doing their best to succeed and keep their doors open. We have been working on finding ways to bring many of these different organizations together and build a more cooperative relationship.

Each organization has different assets that can help others out. For instance, we have a store that is open every weekend in the center of town. It's a perfect location for selling the beautiful Mum Bet dolls that help fund the Colonel Ashley House. So we share that space with them to help keep their house on its feet. In turn, we have acquired a large carriage that we currently do not have the space to house. But, instead of us having to lose that piece, the Great Barrington Historical Society kindly offered some of their space for us to borrow until we have made room. We have also been working in partnership with Dewey Hall to share advertisement and increase traffic to both places.

Other networking has also proved to be very important to the Society. Our Mark Dewey Research Center has many resources that are useful to the community, so we recently hosted the director of the Bushnell Sage Library and a librarian from Mount Everett High School to have a tour of our archives and discussed ways to interconnect our separate research materials. We have started projects with student volunteer groups, as well as the special education department, to work on getting youth involved in local history while learning skills that will benefit them in their future. Our September monthly program on barns was put on in conjunction with the Sheffield Land Trust, so we were able to have the best of both worlds, discuss the historical importance of our barns while, at the same time, helping spread the word about their barn census project. We have also entered the world of social networking with the creation of our Facebook page, so we can grow new connections directly with individuals in our community.

There is no reason why the Sheffield Historical Society, or any local organization for that matter, should be a stand-alone entity. There is so much that this area has to offer, and, through these community connections, we will continue to spread the word and keep each other going.

Mandy O'Connor



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Exhibits at the Old Stone Store

Exhibits at the Old Stone Store
Open Saturdays from 10am-3pm and Sundays from 11am-3pm
"From Alphabet Blocks to Zoetropes: A History of Toys in America" September 7- October 14
Berkshire Haunts Flower Show October 19 & 20
SpiritFest 2013
"Hauntings and History: Haunted Houses of the Berkshires" October 11, 7:30pm- Dewey Hall
Zombie Building Contest October 12, 1:00-3:00pm- Dan Raymond House
Berkshire Haunts Flower Show Preview Party October 18, 6:00-8:00pm- Dan Raymond House
Scary Movies on the Lawn October 25, 7:00pm, Dan Raymond House Lawn
SpiritWalk October 26 (27 if raining), 2:00-4:00pm, Center Cemetery, Berkshire School Rd
Pumpkin Carving October 29, 3:30-5:00pm, Dan Raymond House
A Walk on the Dark Side October 30, 6:00-7:00pm, Dan Raymond House
Upcoming Programs Dewey Hall, 7:30pm
Festival for the Holidays Opening Holiday Party How to Trace Your Genealogy by Dennis Sears Colonial Courtship by Gillian Hettinger and Joyce Hawkins November 15 December 15 January 10 February 14
Sheffield Historical Society invites the support of you and your friends through membership.
me(s) E-Mail

The Sheffield Historical Society invites the support of you Name(s)	
Address	
Please check: New Renew	
Individual (\$5 - \$50) Family(\$51 - \$100) _	Patron (\$101 - \$500) Sponsor (\$501 - \$1,000)
Please make checks payable to: The Sheffield Historical S	ociety. Send to: P.O. Box 747, Sheffield, MA 01257

Haunting Evening to Launch Society's SpiritFest



"From ghoulies and ghosties and long-leggety beasties and things that go bump in the night, Good Lord deliver us!" These words from an old Scottish prayer may describe feelings after the Sheffield Historical Society's October program. "Hauntings and History" will be presented by Josh Mantello of the Berkshire Paranormal Group on Friday, October 11th, at 7:30 p.m. at Dewey Hall.

Mr. Mantello's talk, "Histories and Mysteries", will show how one must be a historian in order to investigate paranormal experiences. Beginning with the Houghton Mansion in North Adams, he will describe suspected hauntings in the Hoosac Tunnel, North Adams, Ventfort Hall in Lenox, October Mount in Pittsfield, and The Mount in Lenox, among other locations.

Berkshire Paranormal was founded approximately 10 years ago by Josh and his father Nick Mantello, both members of the Masonic Lodge in North Adams which is reputed to be haunted. After hiring an investigative group to test the

mysterious happenings in the Masonic Lodge, they became intrigued by the whole process and decided to form their own paranormal group, now numbering six investigators. This also involved purchasing photographic and other equipment used to investigate claims of paranormal experiences. After the Masonic Lodge, they took on the Houghton Mansion in North Adams, as well as clients who requested searches of their homes or businesses. Over the years they have investigated sites in the Berkshires, Eastern New York and Southern Vermont.

Josh has taken an extreme interest in Paranormal Photography and has become one of the better known experts in this field. He also lectures and teaches on other subjects in the paranormal field and has attended multiple conferences and events on many



subjects, from Ghost Hunting and Paranormal Investigative Techniques, to Paranormal Photography. Josh has also taught a Paranormal Investigating or Ghost Hunting class at local schools, teaching middle to high school aged students about modern day

paranormal investigating techniques.



After Mr. Mantello's description of alleged hauntings in well-known historic sites in the Berkshires, audience members will be encouraged to offer their own stories of mysterious happenings in their homes and elsewhere. Join us on October 11th for "Histories and Mysteries", the inauguration of the Historical Society's "SpiritFest", a month long series of spooky events celebrating the Halloween season.





From the Administrator

So you may have been wondering who this "Mandy O'Connor" is that you've been getting e-mails and letters from for the past month or so. Well, the easiest answer is: that's me. I'm Mandy O'Connor. More rel-

evantly, I'm happy to say that I'm the new administrator for the Sheffield Historical Society. Many of you I've already had the pleasure of meeting, but still more I have not, so let me tell you a bit about myself so we're not strangers.

I was born in Great Barrington, spent a few of my early years moving around the area, and finally landed in Sheffield when I was about 10 years old. I attended Undermountain Elementary and the Mount Everett High School, and grew up with the comfort of having most of my extended family nearby, since they live almost exclusively in the Southern Berkshires. I went on to study at Williams College, where I spent four wonderful years in what is fondly referred to as "The Purple Bubble" by everyone who goes there. I enlisted in the Army National Guard two days after graduation and did some work at the Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce while I waited for my training to begin, which it did in November of that year. I spent two years on active duty traveling around with them, but there was one thing that was consistent no matter where I went. I was always talking about home.

Of course I missed my family and my house and my pets, but that's not really what I mean when I say I was always talking about home. I mean that, no matter where I was or the great things I saw, nothing could really compare to how much I loved the place that I was from. My friends couldn't get me to stop talking about our trees, our hills, or our history. So when I came home and saw the opening at the SHS, I didn't waste any time applying. I knew that this was a place where I could make a difference in my community while learning even more reasons to love it.

So we've looked at my history, now let's take a quick peek into the future. As administrator, my main goals are to build our internet presence, start educational programs to engage our town's youth, and create a better network between historical organizations in our area. There are many new projects in the works, which will be the culmination of our combined efforts, so keep an eye out for all sorts of exciting new things that will be happening in the near future! In the meantime, I look forward to meeting all of you! Stay well!

Mandy O'Connor

Mount Everett Students at the Old Stone Store

Have you stopped by the Old Stone Store on Monday or Tuesday morning? The Sheffield Historical Society and the Mount Everett Regional students from the Culinary Arts and Life Skills programs are offering up hot coffee and breakfast treats. Drop in and say hello, hear about the exhibits and upcoming events of the society as you enjoy a hot cup of coffee and a muffin!





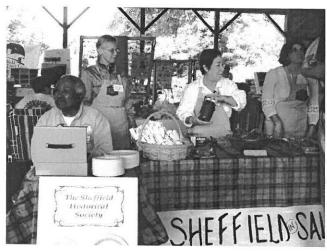
Help us in our efforts to "Go Green" by sending us your e-mail address! By adding yourself to our e-mail list, you will be more promptly informed of activities going on at the Sheffield Historical Society. If you'd like to receive our e-blasts on upcoming events, please let us know. Otherwise, we'll only e-mail you when we need to contact you directly. Thanks!

Vame:		-
E-Mail:		***************************************
Please add me to your mailing list:	Yes	No

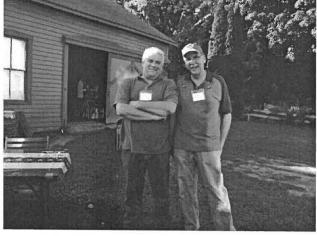
Please either e-mail us with your information to shs@sheffieldhistory.org -OR-

Mail this form in to: PO Box 747, Sheffield, MA 01257

Thank you!!



Salad Bar during Sheffield in Celebration 2013



Jeff Browne and Paul O'Brien at the Volunteer Cookout



SPIRIT FEST 2013

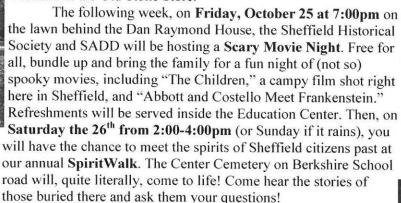


Part of the fun of living in such a historic town is getting to play with all the spirits that go along with it. This October is filled with fun and exciting events that will bring out the spooky side of Sheffield. You won't want to miss it!



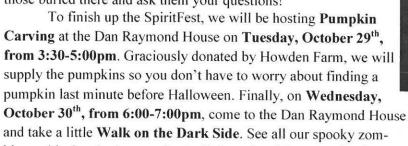
Our SpiritFest kicks off with "Hauntings and History," a program on October 11 at 7:30pm at Dewey Hall. Berkshire Paranormal Group will be giving a talk on the ghosts they've met at many of our local historic homes, including Ventfort Hall, The Mount, the Houghton Mansion, and more! Then the public will be invited to share their own ghost stories. Not to be missed! Then, the following day at the Dan Raymond House, on Saturday the 12th 1:00 to 3:00pm, you can participate in our Zombie Building Contest. Bring a team of friends, or some people from your own local organization, and try your hand at bringing your zombie to life!

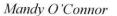
On Friday, October 18, from 6:00-8:00pm, the highlight event of our SpiritFest will take place in the Berkshire Haunts Halloween Flower Show Preview Party, in partnership with the Lenox Flower Club. Start at the Dan Raymond House for a bewitching cocktail party featuring hors d'oeuvres and liquid spirits. Visit the exhibits. You will be spellbound to preview prize winning floral designs, spooky horticultural entries, and educational exhibits with frightfully important information. Can't make it to the party? Don't fret! The Flower Show will be open to the public for the rest of the weekend in the Old Stone Store.



bies and jack-o-lanterns and get a little early trick-or-treating in!









You may have noticed the very large remnants of a 60 year old pine behind the Dan Raymond House, if you look back there today ,you will see that it has been removed. Barrett Tree Services donated their time and equipment to remove the rather large load of pine from our property.

Hats off to a great job! THANK YOU!

Visit Barrett Tree Service at www.barretttreeservice.com.





The Sheffield Historical Society opened a brand new exhibit in our Old Stone Store on Sept. 7. The exhibit includes paper toys & game boards, dolls, wooden toys, and metal toys, dating from as early as the 1840s and extending through crucial parts of 20th century American history. Toys are brought up to date with Trivial Pursuit, Hello Kitty, and Barbie dolls. The exhibit isn't all about learning the history of toys, it's also interactive to remind us that we're all children at heart, and everyone, young and old, plays with toys.

There is a 19th century circus puzzle, zoetrope, and mechanical bank, and many 20th century games such as



Candy Land, Connect 4, Memory and Twister to play with. The oldest toy in the exhibit is a complete set of General and Mrs. Tom Thumb paper dolls produced by McLoughlin Bros. in 1840. There are also beautiful examples of toy theatres from Europe which would have been popular in the mid-19th century and three wonderful tea sets from around 1930 made of three different materials and in their original boxes. The dolls on display represent every decade from mid-19th century right up to 1990s. They are

made of every possible material – rag dolls, porcelain, bisque, metal, and plastic. Did you know that all dolls had brown eyes until Queen Victoria? During her lifetime dolls began to be made with her blue-colored eyes.

In conjunction with the Sheffield in Celebration events on Friday, Sept. 6, the exhibit opened with over 20 people, mostly kids, having the opportunity to see it first. And then the opening reception on Sunday, Sept. 8th gathered many members old and new as well as Sheffield neighbors to view it. The Historical Society will be hosting this exhibit until October 13th on Saturdays and Sundays from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. There is something for everyone, young and old. So take a journey with us through decades of childhood fun! Who knows, maybe you'll even find an old favorite... or a new one!



Lisa Reynolds

From the President

Your Sheffield Historical Society has been busy! We just finished celebrating our fortieth year as a Society, and we are looking forward to the next forty. We started the year with two outstanding exhibits. The first was an exhibit on the Ashley Family Records, and the second was an exhibit on Antique Toys. Both exhibits received rave reviews from our record crowds. The "If This House Could Talk" self guided walking tour of historic houses in Sheffield was a wonderful compliment to the exhibits.

As the fall approaches, we will be holding our second annual SpiritFest (see article and schedule in the newsletter) Rounding out the year, we will be having the grand opening of the Old Stone Store / "Festival of Holidays", and our annual members' Holiday Party on December 15th at the Dan Raymond House. This year, the Dan Raymond House will be decorated for the holidays by several of our local designers. The House will be open on the weekends during the holiday season for tours, which is a new and exciting activity for the Society!

A big "Thank You" to our members for their continued support of the Society, and a special "Thank You" to all of our dedicated volunteers that help us in presenting the many and varied activities of our society. On to year Forty-One!



Wray Gunn and Brian Levinsohn grilling at the Volunteer Cookout

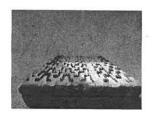


Paul O'Brien and a few visitors at the What's It? Table

What's It?

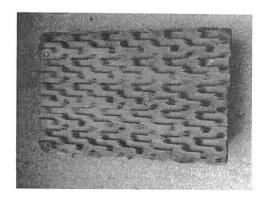
Can you name the item below and guess what it was used for? (Answer Underneath)

Paul O'Brien President









Sheffield Historical Society Board Members:

Paul O'Brien (President), Wray Gunn (Vice President), Lois Levinsohn (Treasurer), Susan Pitman (Secretary), Dennis Sears, Jeff Browne, Joyce Hawkins, Lisa Reynolds, K.C. Clow, Peter Kinne, Tony Carlotto



Dan Raymond House Museum * Mark Dewey Research Center * Old Stone Store 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 transmit that heritage to current and future generations.

WWW.SHEFFIELDHISTORY.ORG

137-161 Main Street P.O. Box 747 Sheffield, MA 01257

The Dan Raymond House is open Saturdays, 9:00am to 5:00pm, or by appointment.

Phone: 413-229-2694

Email: shs@sheffieldhistory.org

The Mark Dewey Research Center is open Mondays & Fridays,

1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., or by appointment.

Phone: 413-229-3682

Email: mdrc@sheffieldhistory.org

The Old Stone Store On the Green in Sheffield Phone: 413-229-2287

We need your help!

The Sheffield Historical Society runs on the support we get from volunteers. Your work serves the community, and now we are searching for better ways to serve you. We don't want to fill your inbox with requests, but we also don't want you to miss out on opportunities you might be interested in. To make sure you never miss a beat but hear only about things you like to do, please check off your volunteering interests in the table below and send it back to us at: PO Box 747, Sheffield, MA 01257, e-mail us at shs@sheffieldhistory.org, or call us at 229-2694. THANK YOU!!!!

Cooking	Classes
House-Keeping	Maintenance
Living History/Reenactment	Old Stone Store
Docent	Gardening/Landscaping
 Tools (Organizing, Cataloguing, etc)	Research
Decorating	Art (Posters, Logos, Graphic Design, etc)
Events	Other

The Sheffield Historical Society



Fall 2014

Newsletter

"Family Reflections:" Christmas in Sheffield

Sheffield Historical Society

Dan Raymond House Jennifer Owens, Administrator shs@sheffieldhistory.org 413-229-2694

Office Hours

Friday 1:30pm-5:00pm Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm Sunday 9:00am-3:00pm

Mark Dewey Research Center K.C. Clow, James Miller, & David Prouty, Volunteers mdrc@sheffieldhistory.org 413-229-3682 Office Hours Friday 1:30pm-4:00pm or by appointment

Old Stone Store On the Green in Sheffield 413-229-2287

Sheffield Historical Society P.O. Box 747 137-161 Main St. Sheffield, MA 01257

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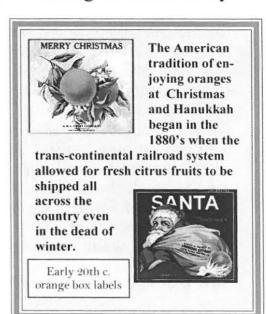
dressed up. There was really pretty Christmas music, and we children spoke our pieces. We exchanged gifts by pulling names, that way everybody got a gift. The church gave us all an orange plus a bag of Christmas candy. It seems that everything we did really didn't cost any money to attend. I

In the 1980's Ruth Barnum Leffingwell (1916-1998) wrote down her recollections of her childhood in Sheffield in a short unpublished manuscript called "Family Reflections." Beginning this issue, and continuing on in future issues, we will be bringing you excerpts from her manuscript.

Another very special time at the farm was Christmas time. It was also a special time at school and at church. At school there was usually a program directed by the teacher. Of course everything was prettied up with red folding bells and red and green tissue paper. Also we would color different things with crayons. We usually had pieces to speak. I remember Pa teaching me mine. Every-

body was dressed up. Of course, the lamp was lighted. Just being back at the school with your family at evening was so nice.

At Christmas the church was even prettier than the school. There was a tall decorated Christmas tree. The altar was nice, and again everybody was pretty Christmas music, and



think Pa and Ma were so good to us by taking us to those nice places so CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

From the Administrator



In this issue we thought we'd share with you stories and photos that represent what the Holiday Season in Sheffield was like at the turn of the 20th century. In addition to the excerpt from Ruth Barnum Leffingwell's "Family Reflections," we are showcasing some of the wonderful photos we have in our collection. Sheffield has many holiday traditions, and one of them is the Historical Society's annual *Festival of Holidays*. In its 15th year, there is once again a wide assortment of hand crafted and locally-made gifts, ornaments, and delectable treats for

sale. To see some of the items before you stop by the Old Stone Store, please visit the Festival of Holidays website: http://theoldstonestore.weebly.com/

-Jennifer Owens





Some of the items for sale at the Old Stone Store





we could get the meaning of it all. We were really taught about Christmas and the meaning of it all at home too.

Now at our home, Christmas was really something else. Pa always got us a tree, and we made all the decorations for it. We would pop corn and string it. We kept it for a few years. We also cut and mixed some flour and water for paste and made circles for the tree. We colored little pieces of pa-

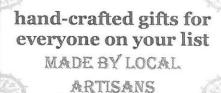
per. We used the same ribbon over and over. We mostly got things like stockings and shoe laces. If we all got a new pencil that was rare. Ma always seemed to get some candy with walnut meats in it. I don't know where she hid it, but it was there. Pa used to crack the butternuts and take the meats out for her. We had a nice butternut tree right down by our well. We had walnut trees too.

Now that I am older, I wouldn't have

A slightly more sumptuous Sheffield Christmas morning, 1906 exchanged my childhood for anything else. We were all so happy, had fun, and worked hard. Our parents loved us and taught us. Of course, we didn't miss money, because we never had any; I can't believe people back in those days with money had a better life than we did. I believe you have to work for what you get out of life to fully enjoy it, and that we did.



FESTIVAL of EIOLIDAYS





MARGARET BUCHTE cards

CATA (COMMUNITY ACCESS TO THE ARTS) craft & paper goods jewelry

PAMELA DALTON scherenschnitt

KRISTEN KANTER wooden items

MARIA GAY hand-carved painted Santas

ARTISA

MARISA JOYCE photography

GARY LEVEILLE books & postcards

AMANDA MORGAN knitted infant sweaters MARY ELLEN O'BRIEN jewelry

ELIZABETH O'DONNELL Long Road jewelry

PENROSE DESIGN hand-blown glass jewelry

ELIZABETH THORNE POST

felt & cloth dolls

CHARLENE

REARDON chalkware Santas & holiday cards

GEORGE REEVES leather goods

JUDY & GARY SCHUMER books & cards

JEFF SPUGNARDI gravity wine bottles holders

LANDA WIECHNICKI

November 8th

December 21st



DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING 10:00am~4:00pm CHRISTMAS EVE 10:00am~3:00pm

Let it snow

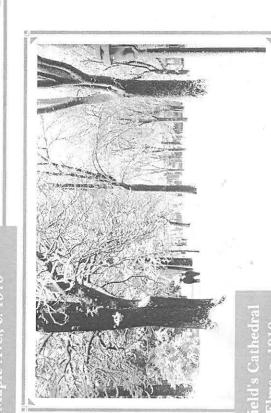


A boy and his dog at the icy Housatonic, c. 1915



Children enjoying vinter, Orchard Shade, c. 1915



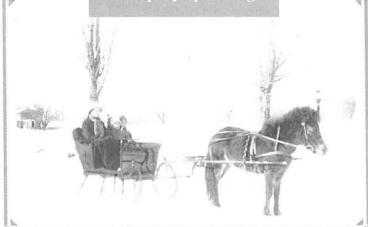


ook what Santa brought...a atform horse with wheels!

Sleighbells ring...







Holiday Recipe

From: "Cooking Favorites of Sheffield," Sheffield Grange No. 224 A "yule kaga" is a spiced and candied Norwegian holiday bread

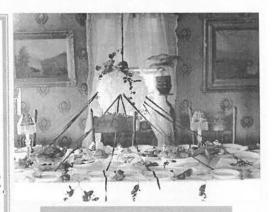
YULE KAGA

2 c. scalded milk 1/2 c. shortening, scant 2/3 c. sugar 2 tsp. salt 1/4 tsp. cardamon seed 2 pkgs. dry yeast 1/4 c. lukewarm water

Mrs. Richard LeGeyt

2 eggs 4 c. sifted flour 1 tsp. cinnamon 1 c. light raisins 1 c. cherries 1 c. citron 4 more c. flour

Scald and cool milk with shortening, sugar, salt and cardamon seed. When cool, add yeast which has been dissolved in water. Add 4 c. flour, cinnamon and fruit. Add additional 4 c. flour. Raise until double in bulk. Punch down. Knead. Raise until double in 2 bread tins. Bake at 350 degrees 45 minutes. (Shell cardamon seeds may be crushed between two spoons.)



Christmas dinner, 1908

Recent Exhibits & Programs

September-October

Distilling, Drinking & Prohibition Exhibit

Rounding out a year of well-received exhibits, was "Distilling, Drinking & Prohibition." An assortment of antique alcohol making apparatus from Sheffield was on display, ranging from an apple cider press to a liquor still to the bottles and jugs that held those prized locallymade libations. The monthly program at Dewey Hall, "Traditional New England Cider Making, History and Techniques," welcomed Dennis Picard who gave a highly-informative and enjoyable presentation on the history and traditions of hard cider making.



Our first Sock Hop featured a classic car show, an oldies concert, a hula hoop contest, and vintage treats.



Jeannie Romeo crooning all of the favorite oldies

Spirit Fest 2014

OCTOBER MONTHLY LECTURE PROGRAM:

"In a Preternatural Way:" 17th-Century Witchcraft in Connecticut and Western Massachusetts, a talk by Lisa Johnson

SPIRITWALK

The spirit of Eliza Sage recounts a life as a teacher and suffragette



HALLOWEENTrick-or-Treating



Madison Ryan in costume, handing out candy to Trick-or-Treaters going door-to-door at the Society's historic buildings

Sheffield Historical Society Board Members:

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Student Advisors

Madison Ryan Alexander Valentini

Living History Day

In October we welcomed the 5th Grade class at Undermountain Elementary School to participate in a "Living History Day". This is the second year we have run this program, and plan to con-

tinue and expand it in the future. The students rotated between stations where they learned about and participated in activities that brought to life what it was like to live in Sheffield in the 19th century. They made candles and butter, worked with antique tools, listened to a lawyer's account of a famous trial, and learned their lessons at a recreation of an

one-room schoolhouse. A popular



2 parents 4 grandparents 8 great grandparents 16 gg grandparents 32 ggg grandparents 64 gggg grandparents 128 ggggg grandparents 256 gggggg grandparents 512 ggggggg grandparents 1,024 ggggggg grandparents 2,048 gggggggg grandparents 4.096 ggggggggggg grandparents 8.192 gggggggggggg grandparents 16,384 gggggggggggg grandparents 32,768 ggggggggggggg grandparents 65,536 ggggggggggggggg grandparents 131,072 ggggggggggggggggggggggggandparents

HOW MANY RELATIVES DO YOU HAVE?

Grandparents

From The Family Tree, August September 1999

station was genealogy, where the children were guided through trac-

ing their ancestors using the society's records online genealogy resources. But as anyone who has set out on the journey of uncovering

their family history knows, it takes much more than a twenty minute session to dig deep into the past. So we hope to welcoming the students back to continue tracing their genealogies.

Always been curious about uncovering your family history?

Whether you have ties to Sheffield or not, the historians at the Mark Dewey Research Center can guide you in finding the right resources for your genealogy quest. The Center is open 1:30pm-4pm Fridays or by appointment. Contact us at mdrc@sheffieldhistory.org or 413-229-3682

Upcoming Monthly Programs and Exhibits

Look out for them in the new year!

Extreme Weather

An exhibit presenting historic photos and accounts of severe weather events in Sheffield: floods, record snowfalls, droughts, and

tornadoes. Frank Lowenstein will give a talk on the local effects of climate change at the monthly program.

Have you ever heard of Berkshire Crystal Water? Help us solve the mystery of the history of this Sheffield bottling company. Email or call us with any info or memories you have.



Berkshire County Antique Bottles

This monthly program lecture and exhibit will feature longtime Berkshire County resident Jim Thomas's collection of bottles found throughout Berkshire County. These, along with bottles from the Society's collection, will explore the beauty and function of this simple vessel.



Sheffield Historical Society

P.O. Box 747 Sheffield, MA 01257

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 transmit that heritage to current and future generations.

WWW.SHEFFIELDHISTORY.ORG

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