



Sheffield Historical Society

Fall 2001 Newsletter

Artist's Work is Stone Store Fundraiser

Stone Store construction update:

The new cedar shake roof has been completed.

The masonry work is almost complete.

Many of the windows are in place.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Stone Store Ice Cream Social on September 8th

Special points of interest:

- ♦ Fall Calendar of Events
- ♦ Sheffield in Celebration

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



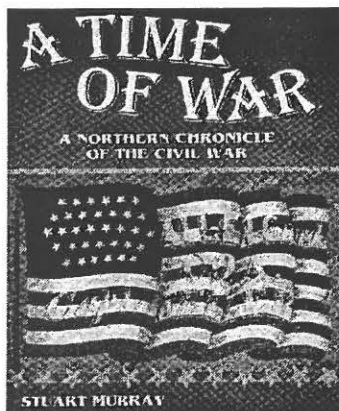
As a part of this Sheffield in Celebration, the Historical Society will be holding an Ice Cream Social.

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

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

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

September



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

Monthly Meeting

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

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

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

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

October



Mt. Everett Sanctuary Hike.

October 10: Wednesday,

9 am to 12 pm.

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

Registration required.

Monthly Meeting—October 12:

"Where Did They Go?"

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

Spirits of Sheffield Cemetery Walk, Saturday, October 13

Spirits of Sheffield Cemetery

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tickets \$15. A reception will follow.

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



November—Monthly Meeting

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



Gala Holiday Events Planned

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

Mark Dewey Research Center Archives

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

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

Camp near Savannah, Ga. Dec. 20, 1864

My dear Martha,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours lovingly

J.B. Roys

IMLS CAP UPDATE



INSTITUTE of MUSEUM
and LIBRARY SERVICES

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

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

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

Outreach Committee seeks Ideas & Volunteers

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

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

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

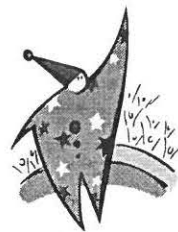
P. S. Special thanks to Inez Flinn who once again will be in charge of hospitality for the monthly meetings.

SHEFFIELD IN CELEBRATION

September 8th to 16th, 2001

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

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



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

The Sheffield Historical Society

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

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

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

FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS _____

Name (s) _____

Mailing Address _____

Town/City _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Alternate Address _____

Town/City _____ Zip _____

Dates this address is valid _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank Y O U !

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



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PO Box 747
Sheffield, MA 01257

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

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

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

WE'RE ON THE WEB
SHEFFIELDHISTORY.ORG

Board of Directors

Dorothy Marosy, *President*

Kathie Ness, *Vice-President*

Catherine Miller, *Treasurer*

Harry Conklin, *Clerk*

Trustees:

Doreen Atwood

Wray Gunn

James Miller

Marilyn Wightman

Rene Wood

Joanne Hurlbut, *Director*

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

The Standing Committees for 2001-2002 are:

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

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

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

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

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

Save these dates:

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

**October 13th for the
Cemetery Stroll**

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