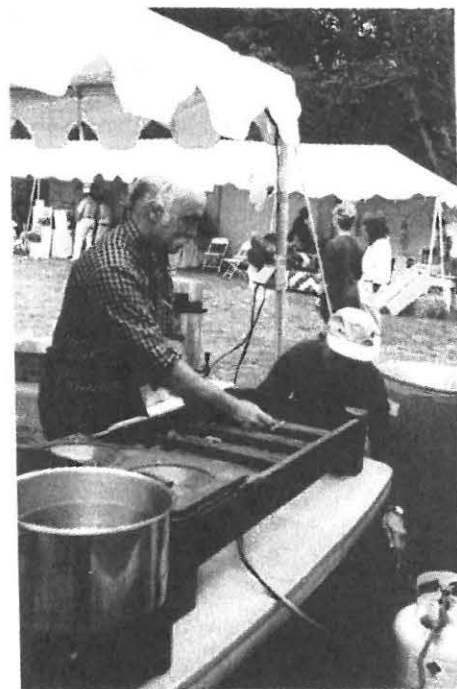




# ***SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY FALL NEWSLETTER 1999***

## **A Successful 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Arts & Artisans**

Throughout the day, amid the rain drops, people kept coming to the fair; by the end of the day 350 had come through the gate! Comments from craft demonstrators, visitors and the volunteer staff were all extremely positive. No soggy spirits here. There was a new physical layout which worked well and provided a cozy atmosphere; the tents kept everyone dry and in close contact with each other. Demonstrators found a high level of interest by patrons who asked in-depth questions. The rain even helped to keep the visitors shopping in our Country Store, located in the Carriage Barn this year. Smells of onions on the grill wafted all around the site and brought many a mouth watering person to the food tent. A sound system provided background music to lift the spirits. For several hours, WSBS did a live broadcast of the Festival. House tours were popular, especially at the beginning and end of the day. Children's activities kept all age levels busy.



Baskets were the popular craft of the day, with corn husk dolls a close second. Weaving and 18<sup>th</sup> century games also delighted the young. A survey was conducted to learn how visitors heard about the Festival. As people left, many stopped to give a word of thanks for the high quality of the demonstrators, the great food and a rainy day made enjoyable by our efforts. The Festival is a success because of the hard work and dedication of so many volunteers; to everyone involved THANK YOU!!

Above: Harry Conklin and Ann Riou set things on fire at the Food Tent.

Left: (moving left to right) Kathy Orlando, Chris Kelley, Gail Anderson and Jim Anderson prepare basket bases for children to weave.

Photographs by Catherine Miller.



## 1999 FALL SCHEDULE

### **September 10: "History Can Be Fun" with Bernard Drew**

*Friday 7:30 pm, Dewey Hall, Monthly meeting, Free and open to the public*

Drew's presentation will examine three ways of compiling local history information: paper research, personal interviews and field investigation. He will use as illustrations the violent end in 1898 of a former state prisoner and one-time Sheffield resident Frederick Webster, and "Bullet" Kline's reminiscences of Egremont Plain when it was an onion field. Drew will also present the result of his summer outdoor research, the pattern of charcoal hearth sites on Monument Mountain in Great Barrington and how it can change our perception of a mountain as industry and as literary inspiration.

Drew is a past president of the Berkshire County and the Great Barrington historical societies. He is the author of *Great Barrington: Great Town \* Great History* and *The Berkshire Photo Album: Historic Images 1870s-1990s*.

### **October 8: "Unredeemed Captive Eunice Williams" by Nancy Knipe**

*Friday 7:30 pm, Dewey Hall, Monthly meeting, Free and open to the public*

Storyteller, guide at Historic Deerfield, and retired school teacher, Nancy Knipe will relate through first person interpretation the harrowing experiences of Eunice Williams. *My memories of Deerfield were of gunshots, screaming, fire and blood. I wished never to return. I spoke as a Mohawk. I thought as a Mohawk. These were my people. I was an Indian.* These were the words of Eunice Williams who as a seven year-old child was violently taken from her Deerfield home in February of 1704. Come and hear her life story.

### **October 23: "The Spirits of Sheffield Cemetery Walk" led by Dennis Picard**

*Saturday, 7pm, Sheffield Plain Cemetery, Free to members, \$3 non-members*

Make contact with the voices from Sheffield's past in this evening of spiritual communications. Meet at the cemetery located on the west side of Route 7, just north of the center of Sheffield.

### **October 24: 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey Dinner to Benefit Our Scholarship Fund**

*Sunday 12:00 noon and 1:30 pm, American Legion Hall, Route 7*

*Adults \$8, Children under 12 \$3.50 (all you can eat, except for dessert)*

Join us for the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Turkey Dinner to raise funds to benefit the Society's educational programs and scholarships at the Southern Berkshire Regional School. Our expert in culinary turkey delights, Harry Conklin, under tutelage of the original turkey master, Milton Barnum, is again chairing this event. **We can use your talents in baking pies, peeling vegetables, roasting those birds and of course in setup and cleanup. Mark your calendars for the feast, and be sure to bring along a friend.**



### **November 12: "Decorative Painting" with Barbara Willner**

*Friday 7:30 pm, Dewey Hall, Monthly meeting, Free and open to the public*

Willner, a member of the Historical Society of Early American Decoration, will present an illustrated program on faux painting.

### **November 20: "della Robbia Workshop" with Dennis Picard**

*Saturday 10 am to 12 pm, Reservations required, \$15 members, \$20 non-members, supplies included*

Remember the lovely decoration over the Dan Raymond House door last season? That was della Robbia. Prepare your home for the holiday season. Using hard fruits such as apples, various trims and household ingredients, create a beautiful centerpiece or a hanging arrangement for your fireplace, wall or door.

(Fall Schedule Continued)



# Sheffield Historical Society

Invites

you

To a Yule trip to yesteryear.



**W**e cordially invite you to enter the 19th century and visit the Storowton Village Museum, a permanent reminder of New England life in bygone days.

Storowton Village Museum  
and  
Storowton Tavern  
offers

"A Taste of History"

Wednesday - December 8, 1999

Nestled in a quiet corner of the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Massachusetts, Storowton is an authentic recreation of a 19<sup>th</sup> century village with nine historical buildings assembled around a traditional Green.

Cost: Members \$35.00 Non-members \$40.00

Leave from the American Legion parking area at 9:00 AM  
Returning about 2:30-3:00 PM

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## RESERVATION FORM --- STOROWTON

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Tele. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Sample Menu

|                                       |                              |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Cranberry Shrub                       | Herb Rice Pilaf              |
| Baked Scrod or Yankee Pot Roast       | Maple-Laced Butternut Squash |
| Deep Dish Apple Pie or Indian Pudding |                              |

Please make check payable to: SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

and circle choice of Baked Scrod or Pot Roast/Apple Pie or Indian Pudding.

Please return to: Grace Arzt, P.O. Box 484, Sheffield, MA 01257 by November 17, 1999

## NEWS FROM THE MARK DEWEY RESEARCH CENTER

Rene Wood has donated four very important 19<sup>th</sup> century readers, spellers and arithmetic books used in Sheffield public schools. The volumes date from 1816 through 1874, and, significantly, are signed by their student owners including Joseph S. Wilcox and Eliza A. Sage. The books shed insight into the curriculum taught in Sheffield during that time and the signatures guarantee their connection to the town's heritage. Further research will make it possible to pin point in which of the thirteen one room schools the books were actually used. These volumes are a quantum leap forward in understanding the history of education in Sheffield.

Does anybody have similar books?

### ➤ DID YOU KNOW?

#### ASHLEY FALLS CEMETERY.

According to the *Berkshire Courier* of April 19, 1876, available at the Mark Dewey Research Center, the Ashley Falls Cemetery Association moved remains from the old cemetery to the new one. About one dozen bodies were removed in one week.

### You are needed!

Our **Cemetery Walk** needs people to host the admissions and refreshment tables.

**We especially need those of you with a sense of the dramatic—** yes we are looking for people who would be willing to be spirits for the evening. Information and costuming help will be provided by the Sheffield Historical Society. You provide the voice. Male, female and children's parts are available. If interested, please call! (229-2694) The cast should be set by the end of September.



- **THE KELLOGGS OF BATTLE CREEK, HADLEY AND SHEFFIELD.** Will Keith Kellogg who established and gave his name to the W.K. Kellogg cereal company of Battle Creek, Michigan is a member of the same Kellogg family still living in South Berkshire County, under that name and related surnames including Austin, Beebe, Root, Cowles, and Chapin, among others. One of the burial grounds in Sheffield is known by some as Kellogg Cemetery and to this day is maintained by local members of the family.

The Sheffield branch is descended from Deacon Silas Kellogg who was born in Westfield, April 7, 1714 and died in Sheffield January 24, 1792. He is buried on the Plain in Sheffield. He married Ruth Root in Westfield May 10, 1739 and they had a total of 65 grandchildren. Thus, the family is widely distributed.

The common ancestor of Deacon Silas and Will Keith is Lieutenant Joseph Kellogg, baptized in Great Leighs, England, April 1, 1626 and died in Hadley, Massachusetts sometime between June 27, 1707, when his will was dated and February 4, 1708, when it was proved.

Deacon Silas was second generation American, grandson of Lieutenant Joseph. Will Keith was sixth generation and fourth great grandson of Joseph.

Additional Kellogg and related families information is available at the Mark Dewey Research Center.



(Fall Schedule continued)



**December Dan Raymond House Holiday Festivities**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>**, 2 to 5 pm, Free and open to the public

Experience the joys of childhood with the opening of our exhibition "Toys over Time." What were the most popular toys of the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries? Come and view the Dan Raymond House decorated for the season, and learn about the toys of yesteryear. Join us for steamy beverages, 19<sup>th</sup> century desserts and entertainment.

**Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>**, 11 am to 4 pm, Free to members, \$5 adults, \$4 seniors,  
\$1 ages 6-16

Enjoy holiday guided house tours and view the exhibition "Toys over Time."

**December 8: Yule Trip to Storowton Village "A Taste of History"**

*Wednesday 9 am to 3 pm, \$35 members, \$40 non-members, reservations required by 11/17/99*

Bus trip to Storowton, an authentic recreation of a 19<sup>th</sup> century village, located at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA. View nine historical buildings assembled around a traditional Green and have lunch in the Storowton Tavern. (See enclosed sign-up sheet.)

**December 10: Yuletide Stroll and Dessert in Ashley Falls**

*Friday 6 pm, Free to members, \$5 non-members*

Visit Ashley Falls, viewing the lights and decorations, and enjoy holiday refreshments at Trinity Methodist Church.

Additional details on the holiday season and next year will appear in the November newsletter. \*\*\*The Newsletter is under construction—comments?\*\*\*

➤ **1826 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING.**

At the annual town meeting, 1826, \$1,500 was voted to repair highways, \$750 to support schools. The original town warrant is on file at the Mark Dewey Research Center.

Toys, Toys,  
Toys—we are  
searching for  
items for "Toys  
over Time" our  
holiday exhibit.  
If you have an  
item you would  
like to loan,  
please call us at  
229-2694.

**ACTIVITY ON THE SOCIETY GROUNDS:**

- ❖ Roadside clean up under the guidance of Nancy Elliott. Thanks to all who participated!
- ❖ New roof on the Parker Law Office! Interior painting will occur in September.
- ❖ New stair railing in the Dan Raymond Raymond House. Outside rails painted.
- ❖ New exhibition in the Scanlon Room: Sheffield Memories of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.
- ❖ New exterior building signs.
- ❖ Airconditioning in the Office.

➤ *GEORGE FREEMAN. According to the Mark Dewey Research Center, Freeman settled in Sheffield ca. 1845 and on a town document of 1854 he listed his age as 93, giving him a birth date of ca. 1761. But the most interesting part of his birth was the location, noted on the document as "on the Ocean." George, a black man who first came to Massachusetts in 1810, was born in bondage aboard a slave ship.*

The Sheffield Historical Society Newsletter is published quarterly. For further information contact Joanne Hurlbut, Director, Sheffield Historical Society, 159-161 Main Street, P.O. Box 747, Sheffield, Ma, 01257, (413-229-2694). The Society's fax is up and running (413-229-3682); since the fax works through the computer, please call to confirm the computer is ready to receive your fax.

Sheffield Historical Society  
P.O. Box 747  
Sheffield, MA 01257