

SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPRING NEWSLETTER, 1999

TRUSTEES NAME NEW DIRECTOR

At the recommendation of the Search Committee, the Board of Trustees appointed Joanne Hurlbut of North Adams as Society director. Joanne, whose duties begin June 7, comes to the position with nearly twenty years' experience, most recently as Director of Education and Public Programs at the Watervliet Shaker Community in Colonie, NY and the Shaker Museum & Library in Old Chatham, NY. She is a doctoral candidate in history at University of New York, Albany. In addition, she has served as an intern, tour guide and faculty member in a number of other museum or educational settings including Holley-Williams House, Lakeville, CT, Historic St. Mary's City, MD, Berkshire County Historical Society, Hammond Castle Museum in Gloucester and the Wenham Historical Society, Wenham, MA. Joanne's extensive background in educational programming for persons of all ages, fundraising and grant writing mesh well with the Society's objectives.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, April 3, 1826. The warrant called for an assessment of \$750 to support schools, \$1,500 to repair highways and \$700 for the poor. It was so voted, the total sum being \$2,950.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 14: Chris Bailey, a graduate of Brigham Young University and a specialist in the family history library of the Mormon Church, will speak on **Understanding the Mormon Church's Genealogical Collection and Family History Library**. Some may remember that Chris presented a program last year on the ornamentation of clock cases. Dewey Hall 7:30 p.m.

May 4, 11, 18, 25 & June 1: **A Place in Time**, an experiential learning program for first and second graders from the Undermountain Elementary School is currently taking place on Tuesdays mornings. Society's Headquarters 9:00-11:00 a.m.

June 2: A field trip to **Wethersfield Farm and Museum** (Amenia, NY) will include a two hour tour of the house, gardens and carriage museum, plus lunch at Segalla's County Club. Reservations required. See details elsewhere in this newsletter.

June 11: The **Annual Meeting** will provide an opportunity to hear about the activities of the Society this past year and plans for next. Our new Director will be in attendance so members and guests will have an opportunity to meet her. Dewey Hall 7:30 p.m.

August 21: The **Festival of Country Arts & Artisans** will be held. This marks the fifth year of a similar event. Separate newsletter item follows. Society's grounds 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

THE 18th CENTURY BERKSHIRE EXPERIENCE

Our Dan Raymond House, in collaboration with three other period houses in South County, is taking part in The 18th Century Berkshire Experience, a self-guided tour designed to give visitors a unique window into 18th century life in our area. In addition to the Dan Raymond House, participants include the c. 1739 Mission House in Stockbridge, the c. 1750 Bidwell House in Monterey, and the c. 1735 Colonel Ashley House in Ashley Falls.

The Sheffield Historical Society, Bidwell House and Trustees of Reservations have joined together to produce a brochure and promote the tour (from the end of May until the end of October) with area inns, bed & breakfasts and chambers of commerce.

NEW STONE STORE IN SHEFFIELD. "The subscribers are now receiving an extensive assortment of New Goods, consisting of Dry Goods, Groceries and Hard-ware, which they will sell very low. All kinds of produce taken in payment. E.F. and R. Ensign, Sheffield, 20th June 1836". AND, "Miss M. Rood, having just returned from New York with the LATEST FASHIONS, and a beautiful assortment of Goods will be happy to see the ladies at her room over the [new stone store] of E.F. and R. Ensign. Sheffield, June 20, 1836".

FESTIVAL OF COUNTRY ARTS & ARTISANS

Save the date of August 21 and plan to attend this annual event. Already over twenty artisans have signed up to demonstrate their 18th or 19th century trade/craft and more are expected. Planning is well underway for the myriad of activities associated with the function.

The food tent, under the auspices of Rene Wood, will continue the Society's tradition of wonderful homemade pies. So, if you are able and so inclined, please make a pie or two. Virginia Drury has graciously agreed to handle the evening meal for the artisans and Society folk who wish to attend. Both of these ladies will be seeking assistance, so if the telephone rings, please say, "yes".

Ann Riou who did an amazing job with logistics last year will do a repeat performance this year and Dorothy Marosy will again oversee the country store. Kathy Orlando will organize tours of the Dan Raymond House while Pauline Schumann will orchestrate the volunteers of the Mark Dewey Research Center. Kathy Hutchison has agreed to do computer generated signage, and Ann Riou and Kathy Orlando, those painted by hand. Kathy Ness volunteered to handle press releases for the event and children's entertainment will continue under the guidance of Lisa Caputzal and company. Keeping the planning committee on budget will be the charge of our treasurer, Carl Proper!

We need your continuing support in promoting the event in advance of that day and we need your help at the event. Please plan to attend and bring your friends and neighbors. And, when you are called to assist, we know we can count on you!

1850. The number of farm animals in Sheffield included horses, 528; oxen, 290; cows, 1,277; young cattle, 1,123; sheep, 3,347; and swine, 675, their total value \$46,500.

OCTOBER 17, 1895. "Last Saturday afternoon, at the town clerk's office, 11 women registered preparatory to voting at the coming election on the "Woman's [sic] Suffrage" question, Mrs. Sarah L. Boardman being at the head of the list. It was a rainy, unpleasant afternoon, but it is expected that next week Saturday afternoon, Oct. 26, very many others will be present to register. There is nothing unwomanly in this act, so let us have a large number." *Berkshire Courier*

JUNE FIELD TRIP

Join other Society members and friends June 2 for an outing at the Wethersfield Farm and Museum in Amenia, New York. Participants, following lunch at Segalla's County Club will have an opportunity to tour the house, gardens and carriage museum (reputed to be one of the finest). Transportation will be by car pools, to be arranged.

\$20.00 Tour and Lunch for Members

\$22.00 Tour and Lunch for Non Members

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Make checks payable to the Sheffield Historical Society and mail them along with the reservation form to Marion Whitman, Box 608, Sheffield, MA 01257. Hope to see you!

RESERVATION FORM

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Number Attending _____
Total Amount Included _____

*OLD STONE STORE FIRE. February 28, 1901. Fire was discovered in the old [Ensign] stone store by one of the tenants, a shoemaker, who had recently located there. The bell in the Congregational church, which is next to the stone block, is used as a fire alarm but the door was found to be locked and a little delay was caused before entrance was gained. [The store] was occupied by a barber, James Wallace; milliner, Miss Cassidy; a dressmaker, Mrs. N.E. Scott; a shoemaker, George A. Pfahl; butcher, Peter Cassidy; and one room was used as a billiard hall, the tables belonging to Samuel Fox. Mrs. Scott saved much of her stock but lost all her furniture. . . . Miss Cassidy did not live in the building and hence was unable to save any of her millinery stock. The billiard tables were covered with rubber blankets and escaped injury. The barber's loss was not large as the room used by him was on the ground floor. Mr. Pfahl lost much of his stock although his tools were saved. . . . Mr. Wallace has re-opened his barber shop over W.D. French's store. Mrs. Scott and family are at the home of Peter Cassidy. The shoemaker is at present located in a room in the town hall building. Mr. Cassidy has opened a meat market in the green barn opposite the hotel. Miss Cassidy has not arranged for rooms yet. *Berkshire Courier**