



SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SUMMER--NEWSLETTER 2000

The World of George Washington

Join the Sheffield Historical Society and the Old Parish Church in celebration of life in early America, on **Sunday, July 16, 2000**. The events will include tours, hands-on activities, and a Colonial concert.

The Sheffield Historical Society's 1774 Dan Raymond House will be open for guided tours and family hands-on activities. Events will start at 12 pm, and run before and after the concert.

The concert, featuring **"The Music of George Washington's Time" by David & Ginger Hildebrand, will take place at 2 pm** in the Old Parish Church. The Hildebrands will recreate a wide range of musical styles, focusing on the 1770s -- from popular theater songs and dance tunes to military ballads and "Liberty Songs" of the Revolution. There will be a special emphasis on music related to George Washington and tunes heard in early Massachusetts.

The Hildebrands, specialists in colonial/Revolutionary-era music, will perform on authentic and reproduction early American instruments -- violin, Baroque guitar, English guitar, hammered dulcimer, harpsichord, and English flute; they also sing. Costumed appropriately, they intertwine their musical and historical offerings in an entertaining and educational fashion. This program will include a ballad composed in honor of George Washington to the tune of "The British Grenadiers," as well as several popular songs for *The Beggar's Opera* and dance tunes like the "White Cockade." The music and explanations will highlight both the formal and

less refined aspects of music associated with our War for Independence and our First President. There will be plenty of opportunity for questions after the program.

The Hildebrands served as period music consultants for the PBS series *Liberty! The American Revolution*, and contributed to the soundtracks of *Jefferson: A View from the Mountain* and C-SPAN's *American Presidents* series. They have performed at the National Portrait Gallery, the Smithsonian Institution, and at numerous other historic sites. Among their recordings is the recent *George Washington: Music for the First President*.

Ginger earned her B.A. in music from Dickinson College, and an M.M. in guitar performance from the Peabody Conservatory. She currently teaches classical guitar and does special solo outreach programming for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. David received his Bachelor's from Dickinson, an M.A. in musicology from George Washington University, and a Ph.D. from Catholic University. He teaches American music history at the Peabody Conservatory and is finishing a history of music in Maryland.



The Dan Raymond House activities are free. Concert tickets are \$10/adult and \$5/youth (16 and under). Contact SHS at (413) 229-2694 or the Old Parish Church at (413) 229-8173.

Festival of Country Arts & Artisans

The Festival will soon be upon us and our dedicated volunteers are working hard to put the event together. Crafters have signed up for the day. Still, we need you to lend your assistance in whatever way best suits your time and talents. **Keep the date in mind: Saturday, August 19th.**

Could you assist Rene Wood and Barbara Burns in the realm of culinary treasures? Our production of the famed pies known throughout the county is critical.

Do you have that shopping mania? Dorothy Marosy will oversee the country store, which will showcase items by crafters and contain numerous other period items. Other areas in need of volunteers include guiding visitors through the Dan Raymond House, youth activities, and the evening meal for crafters.

Special Features for 2000 included expanded offerings of activities for youth and magic presentations. The youth activities will have a "sheep to shawl" flavor. Dominick Pumbo will bring sheep for the day. Hands-on activities will include carding and more. Pictured to the right is our entertainment guest for the day.

The day holds great promise, and we need not worry about logistics since Ann Riou will keep us all in good order. But we still need your help. Call the Office at 229-2694 and let us know in which way(s) you can help to ensure the success of the Festival.

The Festival is always a positive experience, but it has yet to be a financial success; in fact, it has lost money every year. Please consider underwriting one of the items listed below and help us prove good stewards of all of the Society's resources.

Could you give: \$60 for a tent

\$25 for youth activities

\$50 for food costs

\$100 for the portalettes

\$200 for the magician

Buy an Ad-varied pricing

We need several sponsors for the tents, youth activities, food, and ads. We need 2 sponsors for both the privies and the magician. Your charitable contributions are tax deductible. Sponsors will be listed on the day of the Festival. Thank You!



Robert A. Olson

Robert A. Olson will bring magic from the past to create pleasures for the present.

Clad in knee breeches, red waistcoat, and a tricorn hat, Robert Olson will reincarnate Mr. Bayly, an eighteenth-century magician.

Bayly, an actual magician, first performed in New York City in 1767. He advertised in New York, Baltimore, and Virginia, stating that he would present his feats of magic "without the use of Pockets, Bags, or Sleeves." At one show in 1782, money must have been in short supply, as potential customers for the show were told that they could use flax, wool, beeswax, or cotton as the price of admission.

Bayly's tricks are done with cards and coins, cups and balls, and a vanishing soldier, called "The Bonus Genus."

Robert Olson, from Old Sturbridge Village, has spent 30 years studying and recreating magic shows of history. Through the use of period magic books, letters, and diaries, he is able to recreate the mannerisms of a bygone era. Olson enables Mr. Bayly's magic to take place right in the hands of today's audience.



THE 28TH ANNUAL MEETING

Education Committee

The Education Committee sponsored two historical field trips this year. In December, Grace Arzt led us on an excellent tour of Storowton Village. We not only had luxurious bus accommodations, excellent lunches, and good guides, but also made a profit of \$270 for the Society. (37 participated)

In May we sponsored a trip to Clermont and Montgomery Place in the Hudson Valley. Twiggs Myers made all the arrangements for the tours of both properties and a catered lunch. The Livingston family histories in these two sites was fascinating to all. A modest profit was made on this excursion also. (11 participated)

"The Place in Time" program continues for first and second graders. The response is positive from all students and teachers who visit our property. The Education Committee recruits and schedules for the visits.

The 8th graders who helped at the Turkey Dinner fundraiser were treated to the annual breakfast cooked by Milton Barnum. Chris Coenen worked with Milt on the meal and the What's It lesson.

More 8th graders toured the property in June and learned more local history.

Many thanks go to all who worked and contributed to the successful Turkey Dinner for our scholarship fund. This year's award goes to Douglas Campbell of No. Egremont, who will receive the \$1,500. after successfully completing his first year at the University of Vermont.

*Respectfully submitted, Marion Whitman, Chr.
Members: Grace Arzt, Milton Barnum,
Muriel Rokos, and Twiggs Myers*

Program Committee



Committee members Jeff Steele, David Prouty, Dorothy Marosy, and Sandra Preston scheduled an interesting variety of monthly and special programs for the year.

The Fall 1999 season began September 10th with "History Can Be Fun," featuring Bernard Drew as the speaker. Mr. Drew is a past president of the Berkshire County and Great Barrington Historical Societies.

October 8th--Nancy Knipe presented "Unredeemed Captive Eunice Williams." Nancy is a retired teacher and guide at historic Deerfield. Nancy told the story of Eunice Williams, who was captured in a Mohawk Indian raid on Deerfield in 1704 and taken to live with the Indians in Canada.

On October 23rd we held our second "Spirit of Sheffield Cemetery Walk," led by Dennis Picard in the Sheffield Plain Cemetery.

November 12th--Barbara Willner, a member of the Historical Society of Early American Decoration, presented "Decorative Painting." We all had an opportunity to try our hands at stenciling.

November 20th--Dennis Picard again shared his many talents with a "Della Robbia" workshop. Participants made centerpieces and wall or door decorations, which were raffled off at the Christmas Yuletide Stroll.

December 10th was the Yuletide Stroll in Ashley Falls. The participating homes were beautifully decorated and the walk ended at the Trinity Methodist Church with music and refreshments.

The January meeting featured our annual What's It Night. On February 11th Lynn Wood

gave a very informative talk on "Your Tool Box or the Registry of Deeds." And on March 10th, Jeff Steele presented a beautiful slide show on American Period Gardens."

April 14th--Dennis Picard took us back in time with "All to the Tune of a Hickory Stick: A Look at Education in the One Room Schoolhouse," bringing back memories to many in the audience.

May 12th--John Harney, of Harney Tea in Salisbury, CT, gave a most interesting and entertaining talk on the "History of Tea," followed by delicious samplings of tea.

Respectfully submitted, Sandra Preston



Mark Dewey Research Center

The Center this past year has been staffed by Betty Chapin, Kathy Hutchison, Betty Dunk, Eleanor Griffiths, Dorothy Marosy, and Pauline Dennis Schumann and was open Monday and Friday afternoons and by appointment. A special thanks to the volunteers who covered for the three months I was away, and especially to Betty Chapin, who was acting Director during that time.

Inquiries have come from across the United States and from Mexico and Canada by U.S. mail, e-mail, and walk-ins, with many referrals from the Sheffield Public Library and Town Clerk's Office.

A major goal for the year was to have e-mail and a web site, and through the volunteer services of Gregg Siter that goal has been achieved. So our Library now has the entire, rich historical resources of the Internet available.

Another milestone was a needs assessment done through a grant Joanne Hurlbut was able

to get that pointed out some of the strengths and weaknesses within our system. The recommendations will be evaluated and some incorporated in to our procedures. The grant also included funding for a daylong workshop on archival work that was held with the Egremont Historical Commission and the Town of Sheffield. Betty Chapin, Joanne Hurlbut, and I attended the session for the Society.

In addition to the internet resources, major additions to the collection the past year have been photographs from Holly Coon; an anthology of children's literature written in Sheffield by A.O. Tower of Sheffield from Inez Flynn; numerous World War I items from Norma Moulton, including a diary of Eugene Reed written from the Western Front; 19th-century textbooks used in Sheffield and photographs and glass negatives from the estate of Millie Smith. We continue to look for donations to our collection.

This year marks the 10th anniversary since the founding of the Center. During that time its collection and the resources it provides to the community have grown far beyond anybody's expectations. This year also marks the end of my tenure as Director, but I will continue as archivist, cataloger and as a volunteer researcher.

Respectfully submitted, James Miller

Nominating Committee

The Board of Trustees for 2000-2001 is as follows:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
President*	Dorothy Marosy	2002
Vice-Pres.*	Katherine Ness	2002
Clerk*	Harry Conklin	2003
Treasurer	Carl Proper	2001
Trustee	Grace Arzt	2001
Trustee*	Doreen Atwood	2003
Trustee	Bruce Howden	2002
Trustee*	James Miller	2003
Trustee	Rene Wood	2001

(*elected 6/9/00)

Development Fund

I'm pleased to report the Sheffield Historical Society Development Fund continues in excellent condition. The Development Fund will close the year with total assets of around \$939,634. In spite of a downturn in the market this year, the Development Fund will provide \$79,000 funding to the Society's Operating Fund with only a year-to-year reduction of \$35,000 in assets.

The Sheffield Historical Society Development Fund consist of two elements: fixed income funds from which income is derived for Society operating needs, and equity funds with accumulation of interest and dividends for future Society needs. At fiscal year-end 2000, the split of funds will be approximately 27% fixed income or money market and 73% equity.

Thanks to the benevolence of current and past members coupled with great stewardship of too many members to mention, the Society continues to be blessed with a strong portfolio to support future programs for years to come.

*Respectively submitted,
H. Dennis Sears, Investment Manager.*

Treasurer's Report

Income July 1999--June 2000



OPERATING FUND

Memberships	\$3,184.00
Donations	2,236.78
Admissions	158.00
Publications	142.50
Bank Interest	57.43
Transfer from	
Development	79,082.49

EDUCATION FUND

Field Trips/Wkshp	1,938.74
Admission	1,607.50

SPECIAL EVENTS

Grants/sponsors	5,844.00
Admissions	2,563.00

Food	980.93
Souvenirs	1,337.85
MARK DEWEY RC	
Donation	487.60
ACCESSIONS FUND	
Deaccessions	4,320.00
TOTAL:	\$103,940.82

Expenses July 1999--June 2000

OPERATING FUND

Grounds Care	\$1,551.51
Building Upkeep	1,684.14
Capital Building	4,916.42
Utilities	4,281.08
Housekeeping	213.62
Printed Supplies	992.96
Office Supplies	2,683.44
Postage	561.83
Meeting Expense	550.00
Insurance	3,780.00
Security	204.00
Accounting/Legal	1,500.00
Membership Fees	526.24
Books, Journals	15.00
Salary of Director	20,058.94
Fed & St Taxes	9,352.59
Seminars	297.50

EDUCATION FUND

Field Trip/Wkshp	1,979.13
Scholarship	2,139.67

SPECIAL EVENTS

Publicity	\$3,227.12
Logistics	5,493.82
Food	1,050.76
Souvenirs	559.58
Entertainment	463.99

MARK DEWEY RC

Printed Supplies	97.00
Office Supplies	409.11
Reference " "	1,736.79
Conservation	164.30
Housekeeping	75.00

STONE STORE

Fees/Taxes	3,989.58
Construction	31,865.20
Other	8.32

TOTAL: \$106,428.64

*Respectfully submitted,
Carl L. Proper, Treasurer*

Road Cleanup Report

Under the leadership of Nancy Elliott, numerous intrepid volunteers have faced the early morning hours and the traffic along Route 7. Their job was to clean up a designated section of the highway. This endeavor falls under the Massachusetts Adopt-A-Highway-Program. The task was successfully completed several times during this year.

Director's Report

Dear Members, my first year at the Sheffield Historical Society has certainly been a fast-paced one. The amount of work accomplished by this volunteer Society clearly evidences your interest and dedication to preserving local history. A major challenge of working in a volunteer organization is working with a volunteer staff. I have found to my delight that there are many people I can call on for help on a daily (as needed) basis. My colleagues in the museum world are amazed at the continued support I receive from you as we undertake project after project. Over the past year together, we have presented monthly meetings, school programs, workshops and several special events. Even though Mother Nature often shared her raindrops with us, events were successfully completed, including the Festival of Country Arts & Artisans and the Yule Stroll.

Two new projects were added to the Society's accomplishments as a result of grant funding: the "Discovering Local Resources" collaborative endeavor between Egremont and Sheffield, and the exhibition *Sheffield: Through the Lens of Carrie Smith Lorraine (1868-1935)*. Both projects exemplify the trend to extend beyond the Society's normal boundaries and to reach the wider community. Judging by the survey comments from the exhibition, we are reaching members and non-members, many of whom were unaware of these resources. People are responding with pleasure at the depth and breadth of the Society's resources.

New technology, including the web page and computerized membership & financial records, will enable the Society to effectively reach a wider audience. Collections records had previously been computerized and over the winter months a thorough room-by-room, piece-by-piece inventory has been undertaken. This crew deserves special mention for their willingness to work under cool conditions; they are Dorothy Marosy, David Prouty, Grace Arzt, Doreen Atwood, and Rene Wood. A working fax in the Office has allowed us to disseminate information quickly, and the press has responded with strong coverage of our events.

The opportunity that awaits and challenges us in all of these areas is the restoration and development of the Stone Store. The Society's goal is to tell the Sheffield story, and our audience, which continuously asks me where are we going with the Store, is eager to know that story. I look forward to learning and sharing that local history with members and the community.

I offer my sincerest thanks to everyone who has assisted me in my first year, from those whom I met only once to those I encountered on a regular basis. Space does not permit me to list all those who gave their time and talents so readily, but a special thanks for all of their help goes out to Betty Chapin, Bruce Howden, Dorothy Marosy, James Miller, Kathie Ness, Kathy Orlando, Carl Proper, and Marion Whitman. A very special thanks goes out to Catherine Miller for her undefeatable energy, enthusiasm, and guidance.

THANK YOU ALL!

Joanne Hurlbut



President's Remarks

Those in attendance at the Annual meeting three years ago were challenged to join with the Trustees to breathe new life into the

Society, which seemed to be floundering. Three goals were stated at that time: (1) to develop a variety of programs and activities to appeal to a variety of people; (2) to establish the Society as a more integral part of the community, and; (3) begin the search for a professional director.

All three of those have been accomplished to varying degrees. A review of newsletters and newspaper clippings of the past three years reveals a myriad of activities and programs, some of which have been part of the fabric of the Society for many years, and others which are new and innovative. Some which come to mind are the sponsorship of the Hannah Pixley project, the workshops on vinegar staining and Della Robbia, the unlacing of the Victorian woman program, the cemetery programs on the spirits of Sheffield, the crafts festival, the Carrie Smith Lorraine exhibit, and the acquisition of The Stone Store. These are but a few of a long list of activities and programs which the Society has provided the past three years.

Community outreach has been addressed by the "Place in Time" program for elementary school children, collaboration with the Bidwell House and the Trustees of Reservations on the "18th Century Experience," and soon a collaborative effort with the Sheffield Land Trust to mount an exhibit on the history of agriculture and land use in the area. The Carrie Smith Lorraine photographic exhibit and two lectures are two highlights of this past year. Those have attracted much positive response from the community, as has the Documentary Heritage Grant on "Discovering Local Resources."

Dennis Picard, initially, and now Joanne Hurlbut were and are the fulfillment of the goal to engage a professional director to guide and assist the Society as it moves into the 21st century.

Our monthly programs have attracted many people from outside Sheffield, as have several of the workshops and field trips. The Society's campus, with its many attractive aspects

including the Dan Raymond House Museum, the Carriage House tool museum, and the Mark Dewey Research Center, is always a center of activity. We are on the web; we have an interpreter's group for the DRH; we have volunteers in the MDRC; we have volunteers who respond when invited to assist with a variety of task.

It has been a challenging and interesting three years and our success has been due in no small measure to those of you in this room and many who are not able to be with us. We have worked together to meet the challenges. I would like to thank all those who stood by me these three years with patience, understanding, support and good ideas: all those people who have served as officers and trustees over the past three years; the search committee, without whose efforts (twice) we would not be blessed with Joanne; all the people who have chaired and/or served on one of the standing committees (education, finance, MDRC, program, etc.); all the people who have assisted in some way with the festival, turkey dinners, cemetery programs, yule strolls, field trips, workshops, special events, and Joanne. We are alive; we are thriving; and I have every confidence that we shall continue to rise to meet the challenges ahead. Thank you all for the opportunity to work with you.

Catherine Miller

A Few Words from the New President

The year 2000-2001 promises to be an exciting one. The activities that are planned will require hard work and many hands.

I'm asking you to think about where your interests lie and how you could volunteer your time.

I would also like to hear about any ideas or suggestions you have for making the year a successful one.

Dorothy Marosy

**Summer Workshops for Youth in Conjunction
with the Carrie Smith Lorraine exhibition**



Through a Child's Lens
July 19, Ages 6-9

Photography for Youth
August 16, Ages 10-14

Time: 10 am to 12 pm
Cost: \$2/child, Registration required.

Sheffield: Through the Lens of Carrie Smith
Lorraine (1868-1935) will remain on exhibition
in the Bushnell-Sage Library through August.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

September 8--The Stone Store and You

**September 10--Mark Dewey Research Center
Tenth Anniversary Celebration
Sunday, 2 to 4 pm**

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

Wish List

If you have any of the following objects in
good condition, but you no longer need
the item, consider donating to SHS.
Monetary contributions to be used in
purchasing the items are also welcome.

**Refrigerator--needed specifically for the
Artisans Festival**, floor lights, screw gun,
glue & staple guns, folding chairs, WWI &
WWII info, Old scrapbooks

The Garden Club has invited the Sheffield
Historical Society membership to assist in
caring for the flowers on the town green.
While the SHS Board felt it could not commit
the Society to this project, the Board
encourages individual members with the
time and inclination to volunteer by
contacting Barbara Person at 229-6625.

Don't Miss These!

THE WORLD OF GEORGE WASHINGTON--July 16

FESTIVAL OF COUNTRY ARTS & ARTISANS--August 19