



DAN RAYMOND HOUSE

SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

01257

Vol. XI, No. 3
April 1984

NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR

- April 4 Historical books, DRH, 2 p.m.
April 13 Regular meeting. James Shanahan, speaker
April 24 Quilting classes begin
May 11 Regular meeting. Michael Black, speaker
May 15 Deerfield trip
May 26 Outdoor antiques market, 10-5
June 8 Annual meeting and elections, 6:30 p.m.
June 23 Second annual Covered Bridge Ramble
June 29 Tag sale, 10-4

** PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE **

The Board of Trustees has proposed a bylaw change as follows:

- 8 c. An ACCESSIONS COMMITTEE of five members shall administer the Accessions Policy approved by the Society. The committee shall include the Curator, the President of the Society, the Chairman of the Dan Raymond House Committee and two members at large appointed by the Board of Trustees and shall elect its own chairman.

The effect of this bylaw change will be to enlarge the committee from three to five members, to allow the Board of Trustees to appoint both members at large and to permit the committee to select its own chairman.

According to our bylaws, an amendment to the bylaws may be made if approved by two-thirds of those members present and voting at a regular meeting of the society. This change will be voted upon at the April 13 meeting.

HISTORIC DEERFIELD

A visit to Historic Deerfield has been planned for Tuesday, May 15. Deerfield was the last outpost on New England's frontier when it was settled in 1669, and its historical traditions have been carefully preserved.

A minimum of thirty people are needed to engage a bus for the trip. ^{Cost:} #18-#20 This includes the bus and admission fees. If you wish to have lunch at the charming Deerfield Inn, you may do so; otherwise, you may bring a brown bag. We plan to stop at the Whale Inn in Goshen for dinner on the way home.

The proposed schedule:

8 a.m.	Leave from American Legion grounds
10 a.m.	Arrive in Deerfield
10-12	Introduction to Historic Deerfield Tour of Hall Tavern
12-1:15	Lunch
1:30 p.m.	Tour Sheldon-Hawks House
2:30 p.m.	Tour Ashley House
4:30 p.m.	Leave Deerfield Stop for dinner in Goshen

HALL TAVERN (c1760) Built in Charlemont when it was still a French and Indian War outpost, this hostelry long served travellers going West. Beyond the gift shop and information center is a seven-room museum with outstanding New England country furniture, pewter, horn, treen, textiles, miniature furniture and a stencilled ballroom.

SHELDON-HAWKS HOUSE (1743) Home of the Sheldon family for two centuries, the large size and fine panelling of this timber frame house attest to the wealth of early Deerfield farmers. Here visitors can see cooking and sewing equipment, fine English ceramics, and the Potter collection of furniture from Boston and the Connecticut Valley and hear about Hon. George Sheldon, Deerfield's colorful Town historian.

ASHLEY HOUSE (c1730) The home of Deerfield's Tory minister during the American Revolution, this house was later moved from its foundations and used as a tobacco barn for 75 years. Painstakingly restored to its original site and appearance, it shows the splendor of the minister's lifestyle in early New England.

Please let Catherine Miller know if you plan to take advantage of this opportunity for a great trip, which should be both entertaining and educational. Call her at home (229-8668) or at the office (229-8064).

TAG SALE

The change in format for our 1984 tag sale was described in the last newsletter, so this is just a reminder. If you would like to have a table on July 28 from 10 to 4, Chris Coenen will be happy to reserve a space for you in front of the American Legion Hall. This is an opportunity to sell your white elephants without the bother of advertising. Bring your own table and chair. The charge is only \$10.

OUTDOOR ANTIQUES MARKET

Of course you don't need a reminder about our seventh annual antiques market. Or do you? This is our big source of revenue for accessions, and we must make it a BIG one.

Chairman Carl Proper has already delegated some responsibilities, but more help is needed. This is a mammoth job, and it takes a lot of people to make it run smoothly. If you have not already offered (or been commandeered) to help, please let Carl or Catherine know of your willingness.

It's also important to spread the word and invite your friends to attend. REMEMBER: SATURDAY, MAY 26, 10 to 5.

HISTORICAL BOOKS

The first "historical reading circle" got off to an auspicious start with the realization that the book selected for the inauguration of this project was excellent preparation for David McAllester's program on March 9th. The Prospering by Elizabeth Speare deals largely with the Sheffield and Stockbridge Indians of the Mahican tribe.

Those attending the reading group were enthusiastic enough to schedule a second session. Art Chase has agreed to review The Duke of Stockbridge by Edward Bellamy on Wednesday, April 4, at 2 p.m. at the Dan Raymond House. Come and join us for a lively discussion of a book about Shays' Rebellion. This is timely because plans are already under way for a bicentennial reenactment of the last battle of Shays' Rebellion, which took place in Sheffield on February 27, 1787.

SPRING CRAFTS PROGRAM

Workshops in various crafts will be scheduled this spring if there is sufficient interest. For any of the following classes, call Muriel Rokos at 528-4767 if you are interested.

QUILTING. The tried and true quilting classes, taught by Betty Gagne, will begin on April 24 and continue for six weeks. Individual instruction in beginner, intermediate and advanced categories will be available from 9:30 to 11:30. Maximum: ten people.

BASKETRY. Carol Hart of Falls Village offers an all-day workshop in basket-making. A fee of \$35, including materials, will be charged. The session, probably in June, will run from 9:30 to 3. Participants should bring a lunch and will be able to go home with a completed basket. Minimum: five people.

RUG HOOKING. Seven two-hour lessons in punch-hooking, called Oriental rug-making, will be offered for a minimum of four or five people. The fee is \$47 per person, with participants supplying their own materials.

HERB WREATHS. This workshop will be scheduled in the fall, and more information will be available later on.

SHEFFIELD SCHOOLS A CENTURY AGO

Town records, April 4, 1870. Voted that the town establish a High School to be kept alternately five months at Ashley Falls and five months at some place near the center in rooms to be obtained and rented by the School Committee.

Berkshire Courier, September 20, 1871. The new high school house at Sheffield is finally completed and ready to be occupied. It has the capacity of seating 80 pupils, and the people in the center of the town hope by furnishing quarters, to keep the high school with them the year round, instead of having it dodge off to Ashley Falls for a term or two every year as formerly.

School Report, 1871-72. HIGH SCHOOL. Scholars have been admitted by competitive examination...The standard of scholarship required for admission has been such as could be reached by any intelligent child in the district schools.

Berkshire Courier, September 9, 1874. The village district school is unusually large this term. Miss Ida Roraback has about fifty scholars, so that some of them are obliged to sit three in a seat, an arrangement far more likely to promote sociability and good times than mental improvement.

Berkshire Courier, October 14, 1874. The new school building in Ashley Falls was completed a few days ago. It stands upon the old site, formerly occupied by the schoolhouse which was so unceremoniously and swiftly hurled to destruction in the hurricane last spring.

School report, 1876-77. One of the difficulties is the want of a full supply of uniform school books. Some parents are too poor to buy them, and at the same time dislike to receive them as alms from the town. The committee recommends that the town own all school books.

Berkshire Courier, March 31, 1880. The high school closed last Thursday with a public examination. The classes in Roman History, Caesar, Arithmetic and University Algebra are entitled to especial praise.

Connecticut Western, August 25, 1886. Walter S. Candee, Zacheus H. Candee and Alice Wickwire passed the examination last week for admission to enter the High school next term.

😊 IN LIGHTER VEIN 😊

The eighth grade history teacher asked her class: "What character in history do you most admire?"

While most of the members of the class were busy searching their brains, one brilliant boy in the back row raised his hand and answered: "My history teacher!"