



DAN RAYMOND HOUSE

SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

01257

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NEWSLETTER

"THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH, YIELDING PLACE TO NEW"

Tennyson

For the third time in the history of our society, the presidential order has yielded to the new. We are very grateful to Catherine Miller, who guided the organization through a very active and productive four years, and we salute our new president, Chris Coenen.

To complete the roster for 1984-85, the other officers are: Virginia Drury, vice president; Agnes Boardman, secretary; Roger Drury, treasurer; Milton Barnum, Penny Browne, Catherine Miller, Alfred Richardson and Muriel Rokos, trustees.

Appointments are as follows:

Curator - Lillian Preiss

Assistant Curator - Marion Barnum

Curator of Photography - Christopher Coenen

Dan Raymond House Committee - Penny Browne, chairman
Marion Barnum
Milton Barnum
William Browne
Catherine Miller
Lillian Preiss
Muriel Rokos

Finance Committee - Roger Drury, chairman
Grace Arzt
Alfred Richardson
Carl Schumann

Accessions Committee - Penny Browne
Christopher Coenen
Lillian Preiss
Carl Proper
Muriel Rokos

Education Committee - Irene Cranmer
James Miller
Muriel Rokos

Antiques Market Manager - Carl Proper

Program Committee - Virginia Drury, chairman
Eleanor Blake
Christopher Coenen
Lillian Preiss
Sandra Preston

Refreshment Chairman - Marion Barnum

"SUMMER IS ICUMEN IN"

Anonymous, ca. 1250

A Report from the President

Summer is in full swing! Mandy and I have been very busy moving, building and travelling but expect to find time to join in the Society picnic and tag sale. I appreciate the support everyone has given me as new president of the Sheffield Historical Society. It will be hard to follow in Catherine Miller's footsteps. Her dynamic, hard-working leadership will be sorely missed. She guided the Society through a period of transition, and it will be my job to further the goals of the Society. The demands of boarding school life will make it difficult for me to be as conspicuous as I would like, but I'm sure all of the committees are in capable hands. Virginia Drury has formed a fine program committee, and they are already hard at work on next year's meetings.

Now that the Dan Raymond House is well on its way, we should focus our attention on other projects. The barn needs work, and we have to decide what its final function will be. Any suggestions for its use are welcome. Another exciting possibility is the old High School building. It is presently owned by the town and sits next to our property. The Society should think seriously about the possibility of obtaining the building and consider what its ultimate use would be. We certainly need space to store and display some of our fine artifacts which are not necessarily appropriate for the Dan Raymond House. If we decide to buy and use the old High School, it would require extensive repairs and renovations. Certainly, we are no strangers to renovation projects, and this would be an exciting new dimension to our grounds. A small museum would be a welcome addition to our educational programs.

I see the years ahead as ones of growth and maturity for the Society. We should strive to increase our membership, particularly younger members, and further the educational ideals of our charter.

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer, and I'll see you all at the picnic on July 22.

Chris Coenen

"EVERYONE LIVES BY SELLING SOMETHING"

Stevenson

Antiques market chairman Carl Proper reports that, although attendance and sales were both down from last year, he expects that the net profit from this year's antiques market will come to about \$3,500.

Antique dealers and show managers report that this decline seems to be a general rule this year. The 1984 gate counted 990 paid admissions, whereas there were over 1,200 last year. Dealers, both on the field and pickers, numbered 127. Perhaps we should think about a better way of spreading the word next year.

"HAND IN HAND WITH LOVE IN SUMMER'S WONDERLAND"

Noyes

Several S.H.S. activities are planned for "summer's wonderland."

SUMMER HOURS AT THE DAN RAYMOND HOUSE. During July and August the Dan Raymond House will be open on Friday and Saturday afternoons from 1:30 to 4. Anyone who is willing to help out on Saturdays will be most welcome. Just let Penny Browne, Marion Barnum or Lillian Preiss know. The July exhibit will be a display of antique lighting devices, and in August we will show old-time laundry equipment.

PICNIC, JULY 22. Starting at 4 p.m. there will be a covered dish picnic on the Dan Raymond House lawn. The society will provide beverages and desserts. Members should bring a place setting, chair, mosquito repellent if desired -- and friends! A feature this year will be horseshoes and croquet. It sounds like fine fun and fellowship.

TAG SALE, JULY 28. This type of tag sale is an innovation for us. The society is providing table space at the American Legion Hall for those who wish to sell their own items. Those who desire to participate may still rent space for \$10 a table. If you have not already signed up, please call Chris Coenen at 229-3323. The sale will be held rain or shine, and the society will sell light refreshments. Participants are expected to bring their own tables and to take back any unsold items (if any) at the end of the day. Hours are 10 to 4.

OPEN HOUSE, AUGUST 9, 10, 11. The Dan Raymond House, outbuildings and law office will be open during the three days of the Sheffield Antiques Show. There will be special exhibits and demonstrations, including two live sheep on the back lawn. This will be a good time for visitors and prospective members to get an overview of what the society is all about. Again, we could use some help in staffing the house and grounds for these three days.

"AND GLADLY WOLDE HE LERNE, AND GLADLY TECHE."

Chaucer

Quilting lessons will again be offered this fall if there is sufficient interest. Betty Gagne has agreed to teach another six-week session, and it has been suggested that an evening schedule might be more convenient for some people. Tentatively, the classes are planned for Wednesday evenings from 7 to 9 starting the third week in September.

There also seems to be some interest in rug braiding classes. If you are interested in either of these programs, please call Muriel Rokos at 528-4767. If you can't reach her during the day when she is working outside, try evenings!

"I WILL POINT YE OUT THE RIGHT PATH
OF A VIRTUOUS AND NOBLE EDUCATION"

Milton

You may remember that a scholarship fund has been established by the society to finance the local history field trip, to provide an annual scholarship of \$500 to a Mount Everett graduate and to support other activities of a historical nature. Proceeds from the annual turkey dinner are used for this fund.

Gregory Carpenter, the 1983 recipient, is studying political science at Northeastern University and is doing well there, according to Bob Krol, guidance director at Mount Everett. This year the scholarship went to Sheri Burkholder, who plans to attend Dartmouth to major in public administration.

The scholarship is awarded at graduation but not paid to the college until the beginning of the student's second year, thus providing assurance that the money is assisting a persevering student.

N.B. The turkey dinner this year will be held on October 28. Please mark your calendar now.

"WHAT NEWS ON THE RIALTO?"

Shakespeare

Getting the News in 1775 (from the Berkshire Courier, Nov. 9, 1905)

"For the Purpose of getting speedy and certain Inteligence from the Army at Boston, We the Subscribers hereby promise and agree to Ride from this Town to Tyringham or Sheffield by Turns so as to bring Inteligence from Thence each Day (the Sabbath excepted) and to Report the same at the House of Mr. Josiah Smith - And in Case no regular method is come into for bringing the News to said Tyringham we promise to bear our proportionable part of the Expense in procuring Inteligence from Springfield twice in each Week - Witness our hands this third Day of May 1775."

Following the agreement on the document is a list of days with the name beside each of some citizen who was to be the rider for that day. Jacob VanDeusen, who agreed to be the first man to ride to Tyringham or Sheffield, was to go for it on Monday, May 8th, and Mark Hopkins was to follow on Wednesday, the 10th day of May, the service from then on alternating except as to the Sabbath, which compelled a no-news interval of two days in each week.

To submit items for the 1984 newsletters, call Lillian Preiss, current editor. In 1985 Roger Drury will take over the editorship.