



DAN RAYMOND HOUSE

Sheffield Historical Society
Sheffield, MA 01257

Vol. 14, No.1
Fall 1986

WELCOME

Although we've had a busy summer since the Annual Meeting in June, I tend to think of the September meeting as the beginning of the new season. There are the usual events planned for the upcoming year, as well as a few surprises. Keep track of your calendars because there will be something for everyone this year.

IN THE GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME

The summer's activities kicked off with the Fourth Annual Covered Bridge Ramble. This is the race that began in 1983 as part of our 250th celebration. As usual, the turnout was excellent and the runners had the rare experience of racing across two different covered bridges. In light of recent bridge misfortunes, it might be a rare event indeed !

Next on the calendar was the Sheffield Historical Society Antiques Show held at the end of June at Berkshire School. It's hard to imagine that any show could have been prettier than the one in 1985 but, by golly, this topped it. With almost eighty dealers from fifteen states, this year's show was a smashing success. Your Society netted \$8,272 thanks to the hard work of all involved. Special kudos go to Roger and Virginia Drury who organized the manpower and food respectively. To give you an idea of how good this show was, let's compare it with recent shows. In the last outdoor show in 1984, we made \$2,883 and last year with the first indoor show we made \$3,753. Even with this vast increase, we discovered that there are still ways to improve. Congratulations to all who participated.

The Tag Sale and Bean Hole Bake occurred on the last Saturday of July and, unfortunately, like most of the weekends this summer, we had rain. Spirits were not dampened although the crowds were small and the beans and franks were just as good as ever. Good job Milt !

The weather did hold out for the Annual Picnic that was held in the back yard of the Dan Raymond House in early August. This gathering seems to be gaining in popularity if the size of the crowd is any indication. One of the highlights was a rousing croquet match with participants ranging in age from 1 to 81. Loring Boardman and Peter Coenen were a formidable team although many of their moves were questionable.

Finally, the Open House during the Old Parish Antiques Show attracted many visitors and Penny, Lillian and Marion had the House as pristine as ever. Everyone that toured the grounds was very impressed and few came away without learning something new about Sheffield.

TRIP

Some interest has been expressed about taking a trip this Fall. If you have any suggestions, let us know at the Sept. meeting. In the meantime, the Massini Bus Co. is arranging a trip to the Shelburne Museum in Vermont for Oct. 3, 4 & 5. It might be nice if a group from the Society went together. For further information, call Sheffield Tours at 229-8498.

NEWS FROM THE SEWING CIRCLE

I hope you all had a chance to see (and win) the lovely 9-Patch Quilt made by the quilting group this year. The drawing was held at the end of the Open House and this year's quilt was won by Mrs. Ney of Mt. Washington. Over \$200 was raised and the group is already planning another patchwork quilt for next year. Buy your chances early and often !

GOBBLE GOBBLE GOBBLE

Once again it's that time of year when we reap the harvest and have a big dinner to celebrate. We from the Society want to get together also and have a dinner. So, on Sunday October 26 we are going to have our annual Turkey Dinner, the proceeds of which go to school scholarships, field trips, etc. Last year we made over \$1,350. It's going to be hard to beat that but we can try. I hope when someone calls you to bake, work, or whatever, you will be glad to help again. The Fall with Thanksgiving and thinking about the Pilgrims and what they went through always makes me feel a little bit more proud of our heritage. How about you ? Oh yes, did you happen to watch the Statue of Liberty rededication this summer ? I tell you, I couldn't get enough of it. It was so inspiring, made you feel like your shirt buttons would bust. I am so proud of our country. I don't know how many times I heard "America" played and watched the flags flying in the breeze. Still, each time my eyes would tear up at the beautiful sight. How fortunate we are to be able to call this Country home. I just love it when I write my return address.

Cook Rd.
Sheffield, Massachusetts
United States of America

OFFICERS ELECTED AND APPOINTED

The Society's elected officers for the current year are: PRESIDENT- Christopher Coenen; VICE-PRESIDENT- Mason Dutcher; SECRETARY- Marion Whitman; TREASURER- James Miller; DIRECTORS- Penny Browne, Catherine Miller, Edward Warren, Marion Barnum and Robert Dean.

Appointments for 1986-87 are: CURATOR- Lillian Preiss; ASSISTANT CURATOR- Marion Barnum; INVESTMENT MANAGER- William Browne; DAN RAYMOND HOUSE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN- Penny Browne; ACCESSIONS COMMITTEE- Carl Proper and Muriel Rokos (plus the president, curator and DRH Committee chairman); FINANCE COMMITTEE- Roger Drury, Grace Arzt and Carl Schumann (plus the president, treasurer and investment manager); EDUCATION/SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE- James Miller, Lillian Preiss and Martha Williamson; TURKEY DINNER CHAIRMAN- Milton Barnum assisted by Catherine Miller; CHRISTMAS DINNER ORGANIZERS- Catherine Miller and Marion Whitman

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- SEPT.12- Bill Bradford will speak on buying, selling and auctioning antiques.
- OCT.10- Jesse O'Hara will entertain us with anecdotes of history of Lower Berkshire County and Conn.
- NOV.14- Dana Blackwell of the Bristol Clock Museum will give an illustrated talk on time telling through ages.
- DEC.12- Annual Christmas Dinner- this is a covered dish affair and begins at 6:30. Carols are the order of the day and a jolly time will be had by all.
- JAN.9- What's-it Show and Tell: emcee Milt Barnum has already been gathering his "stumpers" so be ready.
- FEB.13- A special slide presentation on Shay's Rebellion by Michael Paulin. This is the 200th anniversary of the event which makes this a very timely program.

All programs are held at Dewey Memorial Hall and begin at 7:30 with the exception of the Christmas Dinner.

DEWEY HATTER'S SHOP UPDATE

As most of you know by now, the Historical Society purchased the little house just to our north last June. The house was originally built and used by Mr. Dewey, who lived in the Dan Raymond House at the time, as a hat shop. In the months to come, there will be a lot of discussion about the disposition of this house and the grounds. If you have any strong feelings about how we might best use this property, please talk to any member of the Executive Committee.

DID YOU FORGET ?

The fiscal year began with the Annual Meeting in June and if you were unable to attend, or forgot to pay your dues- here's your chance. If you have already paid, then sign up a friend !
Dues are \$3 for a single membership and \$5 for a family.

TO: Sheffield Historical Society
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NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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