



DAN RAYMOND HOUSE

Sheffield Historical Society
Sheffield, MA 01257

NEWSLETTER
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve as president of the Society for the next three years.

Our task will be made easier by the accomplishments and plans laid out by others who preceded us. We have many completed projects to look upon with pride. We have projects in progress and we have the ones in the planning stage. Past officers and the membership can take pride in their accomplishments. They serve as examples and goals to those of us who set out this fall with our own agenda.

Among the goals I have set for myself and the Society are:

1. greater participation by the membership in general in establishing Society policy and philosophy
2. the establishment of new and imaginative activities that will make greater use of the Society's resources
3. a dynamic accessions program that will make the Dan Raymond House one of the premier museums of its type in New England.
4. a determination of the use of the Hatter's Shop and a movement toward the realization of that use
5. a decision on whether the Society will acquire the high school building and, if it decides to do so, movement toward developing it
6. creation of a written "Society Philosophy" of long term goals of where we would like to be ten years from now
7. membership goals that will double the number of members in the next three years.

Many years ago I decided the best thing about the Society was the people who were its members. With that in mind the goals I have listed are realistically within our reach. Let us continue to build on that solid foundation which makes our group the envy of every society in the area. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

A ROSTER OF POSITIONS

OFFICERS

President James Miller
Vice president Mason Dutcher
Secretary Marion Whitman
Treasurer Roger Drury

TRUSTEES

Marion Barnum
Christopher Coenen
Robert Dean
Joan Sawyer
Edward Warren

SOCIETY PHILOSOPHY COMMITTEE

Lillian Preiss Roger Drury Marion Whitman, others as announced

CURATOR

Lillian Preiss

ASSISTANT CURATOR

Marion Barnum

ACCESSIONS COMMITTEE

Milton Barnum Catherine Miller Lillian Preiss Penny Browne

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Mason Dutcher Virginia Drury Catherine Miller
Lillian Preiss Marion Barnum

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Marion Whitman Martha Williamson Lillian Preiss William Browne

NEWSLETTER

Mason Dutcher Christopher Coenen Ann Dean Robert Dean

TURKEY DINNER

Milton Barnum

ANTIQUES SHOW

Berkshire School Liaison Christopher Coenen
Preview Party Attendance Christopher Coenen Marion Whitman
Catherine Miller

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Roger Drury William Browne Carl Schuman

HATTERS SHOP COMMITTEE

Milton Barnum Michael Briggs William Browne

INVESTMENT ADVISOR

William Browne

REFRESHMENTS

to be announced

The quilting group would like to thank everyone involved in any way for the success in selling chances on the beautiful quilt the group made this year. We realized \$300. and the quilt was won by Mrs. Adolph (Jane) Pekrul, formerly of Barnum Street, now living in Pittsfield. Again, many thanks to all!

DAN RAYMOND HOUSE NEWS

Our open house which took place August 6-7-8 was blessed with fine weather and a goodly number of visitors. The quilt exhibit presented and arranged by Agnes Boardman with the assistance of Marion Barnum was very well received. There were 38 quilts on display and many were the compliments on the quality of the work and the variety of designs, both old and new.

Our thanks to the following:

the many sitters who "manned" the house
Milton Barnum in the barn, and his relief for a day, Ollie Willcox

the gentlemen who were on duty in the law office
Art Chase for the exhibit on beekeeping
to Muriel Rokos special thanks for demonstrating her quilting prowess on all three days.

Again as the new season begins we are looking for exhibits to be displayed at the DRH. Let us know of your interesting collections

Recent visitors to the DRH included a couple from Sheffield, Iowa. They toured the house appreciatively, took pictures, bought books and left a donation so we can "keep up the good work." They promised to send information on other Sheffields they have visited.

Warner Friedman has finished the conservation work on the portrait of Mrs James Bradford. The bespectacled wife of Sheffield's fourth minister has a kindly, rather enigmatic expression which was entirely hidden from view before the conservation. The portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Bradford are appropriately hanging in the Rogers Room of the Dan Raymond House. Robert Jarvis Rogers and his wife Sally owned the house from 1829 to 1866 and were admitted to the Congregational Church in 1831. The portraits were painted in 1847. Do stop in and visit this appealing couple.

The cupboard belonging to Sheffield's first minister, the Rev. Jonathan Hubbard, which is on permanent display and loan from the Bushnell-Sage Memorial Library in Sheffield has been faithfully restored by Sue Connell of Clayton. The cupboard was given to the library by Arthur Tuttle, a direct descendant of Mr. Hubbard. It is now located where everyone may see and appreciate this interesting piece of Sheffieldiana.

We are grateful to our faithful docents, Irene Cranmer, Agnes Boardman, and Roger Drury, who serve on the 2nd, 3rd and 5th Fridays respectively. The 1st and 4th Fridays of the month are still available for the first eager volunteers to enlist. We don't pretend to be overrun with visitors, but when we have a docent on duty, the regulars are free for housekeeping duties which although not always exciting are essential.

We had a fine picnic this summer-- August 2, held in the DRH due to inclemency. Not many came; those that did were blessed with good food, fine comradeship, a touching nod to the year of the American Constitution-- Roger reading the Preamble and the baker's dozen (what a felicitous expression!) of us joining in some heartfelt singing of 3 patriotic songs. We joined hands and hearts in tribute to our land and our heritage.

Yes, that's right, August is nearly gone and before you know it we'll cover up the tender plants that haven't given us all that we think they could. The corn will be cut, just waiting to dry and be husked. The potato bin will be full, as will the crocks. The wood shed and the hay mows have no more room. Now you are looking forward to Thanksgiving with your family and friends. This is all very well, but it's still a time between now and Thanksgiving, so let's prime the pump a bit, say about October 25th. I'm talking about the fun Turkey Dinner when we all get together and see what we can do for the scholarship fund. Last year we awarded \$500. for one student who attended Hobart College, and we financed the 8th grade field trips which sent eight groups thru the Historical Society area, to other places such as Old Parish Church, Col. Ashley House and the old covered bridge.

Oh yes, does anyone know where we can pick up 4 1/5 bushel apples to press out for the dinner cider. As you know we used last year an old hand press given to us by Art Chase, and it worked real well. If you know of any windfalls, please let us know. See you at the dinner.

The program committee has been at work and we believe we have another good year in prospect. Please keep these dates in mind come to all events.

- Sept. 11 Henry T. Callan of Sandwich, dealer and appraiser. Slide show on Antique Furniture styles of New England, 1620-1835. Bring an article for identification and appraisal. Cost per item \$2.00 and we get to keep all the proceeds, for the Society.
- Oct. 9 Betty LeGeyt speaks on the Grange Movement in America.
- Nov. 13 A slide show by Cynthia Hoogs on Sheffield Cemeteries.
- Dec. 11 A gala party with special music, heavenly food and all the seasons best wishers.

The next newsletter will carry the 1988 programs, but the January meeting will be you know what? I got a couple of stumpers.

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the SHS are often uncertain about when the membership year begins-- June, or September, or maybe January. The answer is June, at the time of the annual meeting. If you slipped up on renewing then, you are not alone. You may give your dues to Roger Drury at the September meeting or mail them to the Society. Dues are \$3. for a single \$5. for a family.

Mail to: Sheffield Historical Society
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Name _____

Address _____

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