



## Sheffield Historical Society

Sheffield, MA 01257

Vol. XVI, No. 1

### FALL ACTIVITIES

1988

#### SEPTEMBER

The September meeting was well attended and very timely since it featured Jeff Casdin who talked about the history and renovation of the General Ashley House. The following day the building was among those featured on the Historical Buildings Tour.

#### OCTOBER 14, 7:30, Dewey Hall

Stephen Budrow of Williamstown will discuss "Using a Cemetery for Relearning Our Heritage". Mr. Budrow, a former member of the Board of Directors of the Berkshire County Historical Society, will show gravestone rubbings as part of his presentation. This meeting will be excellent background for the cemetery tour the following day.

#### OCTOBER 15, 1:00, Cemetery Tour

Milton Barnum will lead a tour of some of Sheffield's historic cemeteries, including Candee Cemetery off Route 41, Center Cemetery, and some of the ancient burial grounds along Route 7. Everybody must provide his/her own transportation. Wear comfortable shoes and clothing. Meet at the D.R.H at 1:00.

#### OCTOBER 30, 12:00, Turkey Dinner

The Tenth Annual Turkey Dinner will be held at the American Legion building on Route 7. Sittings will again be at noon and 1:30. This event is extremely popular, so make your reservations early by calling 229-2569/8668/8064. The price is still a reasonable \$6 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. Proceeds from this event fund the Society's educational activities for area young people.

#### NOVEMBER 11, 7:30, DEWEY HALL

The November meeting will feature a presentation by Dallas Cline on the "Origins of the Dulcimer". She will treat us to several melodies as well as give us an historical background on the instrument.

#### DECEMBER 9, 7:00, DEWEY HALL

Our annual holiday affair, with specific details yet to be developed. Keep this date open and prepare for a good time.

#### DECEMBER 11, 3:00 to 6:00, D.R.H.

Annual Holiday Open House and Doll Exhibit

#### JANUARY 13, 7:30, DEWEY HALL

Traditionally the most popular meeting of the year, our annual "What's It", will again be MCed by Milton Barnum. Dig into your cupboards, closets and barns for those stumpers which seem to be harder and harder to come by as the years pass.

## QUILTING GROUP DISBANDS

The quilting group which was started in 1973 by members of the Society, and during its lifetime created twenty quilts, has terminated its activities.

During its active years the Group has donated a total of \$3889.50 from raffled articles of which \$2500 went to the S.H.S. for D.R.H. renovations; \$500 for the purchase of pewter plates; and over \$500 to the Scholarship Committee.

In addition to quilting, the active membership made all the draperies for the D.R.H. and assisted in those for Dewey Hall; made a crewel embroidered Sheffield Town Seal which hangs in our headquarters; and arranged two quilt shows.

A special thanks to the members of the Group who, over the years have contributed so much to the Society.

## DAN RAYMOND HOUSE NEWS

### HISTORICAL STRUCTURES TOUR

At the D.R.H. on September 24th we were fortunate to share in the wealth of visitors passing through Sheffield due to the very successful SHS Tour. The number of interested and interesting people going through our portal filled our guest book and we acquired some new members. It was a truly satisfying day.

### STENCILLING CLASS PLANNED

The Society plans to present a class in stencilling to be held in the brick workshop on the headquarter's grounds sometime during the week of October 24-28, the exact time to be announced. Classes will be conducted by Jude Kent of "Primrose Cottage", Ashley Falls. If you are interested, please call Penny Browne at 229-8598 for information.

## HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Keep in mind the date of the annual Open House at the DRH, December 11, 3:00 to 6:00. Along with the usual festivities will be an exhibit, "A Doll's World" which will include dolls, doll houses and related items.

## SHEFFIELD HISTORIC STRUCTURES TOUR

The Society held its first historic structures Tour on September 24, with stops at eight buildings important to the history of early Sheffield. Lucky ticket holders were treated to visits to the homes of Milton and Marion Barnum, Robert and Ruth Ledlie, Jeff and Sharon Casdin as well as the DRH, Colonel Ashley House, Christ Church Episcopal, Old Parish and the Upper Covered Bridge.

According to Tour Co-chairpersons Marion Whitman and James Miller the events of the day were a sellout, with many disappointed people turned away. Early and extensive coverage in local, regional and national publications contributed to heavy demand for the limited number of tickets available, and, although the event was billed as an educational event, its heavy turnout resulted in a fine profit.

Fan mail began to arrive as early as the following Monday. A letter received from north county began, "This... is to congratulate the Sheffield Historical Society on its presentation of an outstanding house and museum tour. The buildings and collections were superb and its representatives most cordial and gracious."

We are indebted to the many Society members who worked as guides at all the venues, the people who did refreshments, flowers and art work, and especially to those who opened their homes for the advancement of local history in our area.