



DAN RAYMOND HOUSE

Sheffield Historical Society
Sheffield, MA 01257

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WINTER AND SPRING ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY 10, 7:30, DEWEY HALL

HERBERT S. WHITMAN OF CORNWALL, CONNECTICUT WILL SPEAK ON HIS NEW BOOK EXPLORING THE BERKSHIRES.

MARCH 10, 7:30, DEWEY HALL

EUNICE THOMEN, PRESIDENT OF THE CAROUSEL DOLL CLUB, WINSTED, CONNECTICUT WILL GIVE A TALK ON DOLLS AND TEDDY BEARS.

APRIL 14, 7:30, DEWEY HALL

RUTH DEGENHARDT OF THE BERKSHIRE ATHENAEUM WILL GIVE A PROGRAM ON FAMILY GENEALOGY.

MAY 12, 7:30, DEWEY HALL

LILLIAN PREISS WILL SPEAK ON THE NATIONAL HISTORIC REGISTRY, FEATURING SPECIFICS ON SHEFFIELD ENTRIES.

JUNE

ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 9, DEWEY HALL, 6:30.

ANTIQUES SHOW PREVIEW PARTY, JUNE 23, BERKSHIRE SCHOOL, 6:00.

ANTIQUES SHOW, JUNE 24 AND 25, BERKSHIRE SCHOOL.

JULY

ANNUAL PICNIC, DAN RAYMOND HOUSE. TIME AND DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED.

SOCIETY BENEFICIARY OF O'CONNOR ESTATE

OUR SOCIETY IS A BENEFICIARY OF THE ESTATE OF THE LATE GABRIELLE GILPIN O'CONNOR WHO WAS A LIFE MEMBER OF OUR GROUP AS WELL AS BEING THE OLDEST MEMBER AT HER DEATH AT 103 THIS FALL. MEMBERS OF HER FAMILY (BERNARD) WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL IN SHEFFIELD AND BARNARD COLLEGE IN NEW YORK CITY. MRS. O'CONNOR MAINTAINED A SUMMER HOME IN SHEFFIELD ON SOUTH MAIN STREET, THE LITTLE RED COTTAGE NEXT TO THE HISTORIC BARNARD CEMETERY. HER DAUGHTER, ELISABETH (LIBBY) O'CONNOR IS A LIFE MEMBER OF OUR ORGANIZATION.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AT ITS OCTOBER MEETING, VOTED TO USE THE \$1,000 BEQUEST TO PURCHASE BOOKS FOR THE SALLY SCANLON LIBRARY AT THE DAN RAYMOND HOUSE. THE BOOKS WILL BE CLEARLY MARKED AS TO THEIR ORIGIN AND MEMORIAL STATUS BY A BOOK PLATE INSCRIBED WITH THE NAME OF MRS. O'CONNOR.

SOCIETY RECIPIENT OF HUBBARD FAMILY HISTORY

DESCENDANTS OF JONATHAN HUBBARD, FIRST MINISTER OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN SHEFFIELD HAVE PRESENTED THE SOCIETY WITH A COPY OF THE HUBBARD FAMILY GENEALOGY. FAMILY MEMBERS TRACING THEIR ROOTS IN SHEFFIELD THIS FALL MET SOCIETY MEMBERS MARION WHITMAN, DOROTHY MAROSY, AND PENNY BROWNE, TOURED THE DRH, AND VISITED OTHER HISTORIC SITES INCLUDING THE GRAVE OF THE REVEREND HUBBARD. THE RESULT WAS THE FINE GIFT TO THE SOCIETY WHICH WILL BE AN IMPORTANT PART OF A GROWING COLLECTION OF HISTORIES OF LOCAL FAMILIES.

TEN-YEAR GOALS COMMITTEE FINAL REPORT

A SPECIAL COMMITTEE WAS APPOINTED LAST SPRING TO STUDY THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES AND TO RECOMMEND GOALS FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS. EIGHT PRODUCTIVE MEETINGS WERE HELD AND A SURVEY DISTRIBUTED TO THE ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SHS IN APRIL.

THERE WERE TWENTY-SIX REPLIES TO THE SURVEY, MANY OF THEM VERY THOUGHTFUL. HOWEVER, THAT SAMPLE IS TOO SMALL FOR THE LAW OF AVERAGES TO OPERATE DEPENDABLY, AND IT IS PROBABLY ALSO TOPHEAVY WITH THE OPINIONS OF THE MOST ACTIVE AND ARTICULATE MEMBERS. TABULATION, MOREOVER, WAS COMPLICATED BY THE OPEN-ENDEDNESS OF THE QUESTIONS ASKED.

YET THE SURVEY REPLIES OFFERED A GOOD DEAL OF USEFUL OPINION AND MANY HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS. THEY GAVE SUBSTANCE TO IMPRESSIONS WE HAVE GATHERED FROM OTHER SOURCES ALSO-- CONVERSATION WITH MEMBERS, DISCUSSION IN DIRECTORS' MEETINGS, AND OUR OWN EXPERIENCE IN THE SHS. WE INVITE MEMBERS TO STUDY THESE RECOMMENDATIONS AND TO BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THEM.

PRESENT PROGRAM AND STRUCTURE:

THERE IS BROAD SUPPORT FOR THE SOCIETY'S MAIN ONGOING PROGRAMS:

- A. OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DRH MUSEUMS, INCLUDING THE CARRIAGE BARN, LAW OFFICE AND BRICK WORKSHOP.
- B. MONTHLY EDUCATIONAL/SOCIAL/BUSINESS MEETINGS.
- C. OUTREACH TO SCHOOLS THROUGH LOCAL HISTORY FIELD TRIPS, VISITS BY SCHOOL GROUPS TO THE DRH, AND THE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

THERE IS WIDE APPRECIATION OF THE NEWSLETTER AND THE OCCASIONAL FIELD TRIPS TO PLACES OF HISTORIC INTEREST.

THE POPULARITY OF OUR TWO ANNUAL BENEFIT FUND-RAISERS, THE TURKEY DINNER AND ANTIQUES SHOW DEMONSTRATES THAT THE MEMBERS ENJOY WORKING TOGETHER AS WELL AS SITTING, EATING, LISTENING, AND TOURING TOGETHER. THE FELLOWSHIP WITH LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE IN THESE TWO BIG EFFORTS MAY BE AS IMPORTANT TO US AS THE USE MADE OF THE PROCEEDS. BUT NOT MANY MEMBERS BIND THEMSELVES TO MORE FREQUENT DUTIES SUCH AS ASSISTING AT THE DRH.

IN GENERAL, THE SHS IS VIEWED AS A STIMULATING BUT NOT TOO DEMANDING SOCIAL/EDUCATIONAL FELLOWSHIP. ITS OUTREACH TO THE SCHOOLS IS APPLAUDED. THE SATISFACTIONS AND BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP ASK LITTLE EFFORT FROM MOST OF THE MEMBERS. A MINORITY IS PERMITTED TO CARRY THE LOAD.

IMMEDIATE NEEDS:

THE SOCIETY HAS NOW HAD SIXTEEN YEARS OF RAPID GROWTH. IT IS NO SURPRISE TO FIND OUR GROWING MATURITY NOW SOMEWHAT CLOUDED BY FEELINGS OF IMPATIENCE AND A SENSE OF BEING STALEMATED. WE ALL SEE A NEED FOR RENEWAL OF OUR VISION AND SHARPENING OF OUR GOALS. ABOVE ALL, THERE IS AN URGENT DESIRE FOR THE SHS TO REACH A CONSENSUS ON USE OF THE MARK DEWEY BUILDING--PREFERABLY FOR A BIG, UNIFYING PROJECT WHICH OVERRIDES CONFLICTING INTERESTS AND WINS THE ENTHUSIASM OF THE MAJORITY. THE GOALS COMMITTEE SPECIFICALLY SUGGESTS THAT THE MARK DEWEY BUILDING BE PUT TO USE AS A SHEFFIELD FAMILY RESEARCH CENTER, A WORKING FACILITY FOR RESEARCHING, RECORDING, AND SAFE-KEEPING MATERIALS HAVING TO DO WITH THE HISTORY OF SHEFFIELD'S FAMILIES-- THEIR LINEAGE, OCCUPATIONS, SOCIAL AND BUSINESS LIFE, LAND, BUILDINGS, PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, ETC. THE POSSIBLE SCOPE OF SUCH A SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY APPEARS TO BE UNLIMITED. IF THE SUGGESTION WINS GENERAL APPROVAL, THEREFORE, PRIORITIES MUST BE CAREFULLY THOUGHT OUT, AND USE OF THE AVAILABLE SPACE PLANNED STEP BY STEP.

FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS:

- A. BRING OUR EXISTING MUSEUMS TO THE FULLEST USE, SELECTING PROGRAMS FOR STRENGTH AND FRUITFULNESS
- B. COMMIT THE MARK DEWEY BUILDING TO WORK OF RECOGNIZED UTILITY TO THE SOCIETY AND THE COMMUNITY
- C. GREATLY ENLARGE OUR ATTENTION TO SHEFFIELD HISTORY THROUGH SUCH ACTIVITIES AS SUPPORTING THE SHEFFIELD TIMES, CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEWEY MEMORIAL HALL ROOF FUND, HISTORIC BUILDINGS TOURS, CEMETERY TOURS, BOOK DONATIONS, ETC.
- D. KEEP OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS LIVELY AND RELEVANT, ADDING SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, FIELD TRIPS, AND KINDRED ACTIVITIES

- E. ESTABLISH A CALENDAR FOR SOLICITATION OF SOCIETY VOLUNTEERS, HELPING INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS TO BE AWARE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS OF SKILLS, LABOR AND TIME ARE NEEDED
- F. REACH OUT TO ATTRACT YOUNGER MEMBERSHIP
- G. MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN THE ENDOWMENT AS THE UNDERPINNING OF THE OPERATING BUDGET AND A TOOL FOR FUTURE GROWTH. IN THIS REGARD, WE CALL ATTENTION TO A JUDGMENT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN NOVEMBER, 1986, THAT THE SOCIETY WILL BE FINANCIALLY ABLE TO UNDERTAKE FUTURE BUILDING RENOVATIONS PROVIDED THAT 1) PAYMENT BY A PRUDENT COMBINATION OF FUNDRAISING, MORTGAGE, AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE IS CONSIDERED, AND THAT 2) ANY MAJOR PROJECT IS SPREAD OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS, WITH ANNUAL REVIEW AND EVALUATION TO ASSURE THE CONTINUING SOUNDNESS OF OUR FINANCIAL POSITION.
- H. MAKE THE MOST OF OUR PRESENT BUILDINGS AND COMMITMENTS, AND THEN REEXAMINE THE MERITS OF THE PROPOSAL TO ACQUIRE THE ORIGINAL SHEFFIELD HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING-- AT THAT TIME FRESHLY MEASURING THE STRENGTH OF SENTIMENT PRO AND CON. INTERESTINGLY, IN OUR SURVEY, NINE OF OUR 26 SURVEY REPLIES FAVORED ACQUISITION OF THE BUILDING, BUT ONLY FOUR RESPONDENTS BELIEVED THE SOCIETY SHOULD ACQUIRE MORE HISTORICAL PROPERTY.

MEMBERS OF THE GOALS COMMITTEE ARE CHRISTOPHER COENEN, CATHERINE MILLER, JAMES MILLER, LILLIAN PREISS, MARION WHITMAN, AND ROGER DRURY, CHAIRMAN. THEY WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT YOUR THOUGHTS AND IDEAS ARE!