



DAN RAYMOND HOUSE

## SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

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### WINTER ACTIVITIES

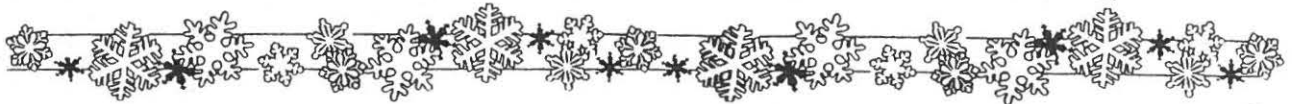
December 9, 3 to 6 p.m., Dan Raymond House  
Annual Holiday Open House -- see page 3.

December 14, 7:30 p.m., Dewey Hall  
Annual Holiday Party -- see below.

January 11, 7:30 p.m., Dewey Hall  
"What's It" Night. Bring in historical artifacts you can't identify, to see if Milton Barnum and our other experts can. Or bring in something you can, but think they can't! Now's the time to find out about that odd bit of ironwork out in the barn, or that strange-looking old tool that's been rattling around in the kitchen. See how many of the other entries you can identify!

February 8, 7:30 p.m., Dewey Hall  
A special program on notable Sheffield women, past and present. (If you have ideas/suggestions/inspirations on the subject, please call Sallee Hardy, program chairperson.)

March 8, 7:30 p.m., Dewey Hall  
Grace Snyder, who with her husband operates Elliott & Grace Snyder Antiques in South Egremont, will present a program on textiles. She has a special interest in samplers, hooked rugs, needlepoint, and quilts.



### ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Both tradition and novelty will make up the program of the December 14 meeting, starting at 7:30 p.m. in Dewey Memorial Hall.

A program of holiday music will be presented by the Friendly Chorus, directed by Betty Long and accompanied by Hilda Banks Shapiro. Both are well-known musicians in the Southern Berkshires.

A traditional component of the December meeting is Art Chase's not-to-be-missed rendition of "The Night Before Christmas." A semi-tradition (three years old) is a festive dessert buffet, for which Marion Whitman and Catherine Miller are in charge.

Come and enjoy!

## THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

We are grateful to everyone who contributed in any way to our recent Turkey Dinner. Everyone worked together and had fun doing so. Mort tells us that we came close to \$1,500--many thanks!

Don't forget our open house on Sunday, December 9 from 3 to 6 p.m., immediately before the town's tree-lighting ceremony. If you have never been to the Society's holiday open house, treat yourself and come by. The house committee does a great job: all the candles will be lit, the fireplaces glowing, the house fragrant with the gentle aromas of times gone by--and there are refreshments to top it off. Don't miss it!

Then on December 14 you can treat yourself again, to our annual holiday party. Marion Whitman and her committee have a great evening in store.

We'll be starting the New Year off with our regular show-and-tell and "What's It" program. It's a fun evening, so look in your attic, cellar, barn, or top left drawer of the kitchen cupboard and see what you can come up with. Art Chase is getting rather proficient at this game, so let's see what we can bring in to stump him!

A Special Note: Too often we take for granted someone who has worked hard for a cause they believe in. I think that might be the case with Agnes Boardman. In her own quiet way she has always come through with tasks to aid the Society. Fifteen years ago she and the other volunteers scrubbed dishes to help us get an extra dime at the auctions. She has worked hard with the quilting group, takes care of calling people to bake pies, was secretary of the Society for several years--and has always done just about anything she thought would help. If you have not heard the tape Agnes made about her first teaching position--at the Brush Hill school--I urge you to ask her to play it for you. With Loring at her side at all times, giving her all the help he can, they make a fine, loving couple. Thanks a lot, folks--we love you!

We wish each of you a happy holiday season, and a prosperous and healthy new year. Blessings to all--

Milton

## WELCOME!

New Members:

Dr. and Mrs. Noel Cohen, and Gordon and Claire Height, from Sheffield. From Ashley Falls, Nancy and Bob Rathbun.

Drs. William and Eileen Evans, and Stanley and Diana Feld, from Lee.

And from Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan, Charles DuCharme, who writes that he is enjoying renewing his acquaintance with the Berkshires now that his son, Charlie, is a student at Berkshire School, his own alma mater.

## WE MISS YOU, ED

Hardly a week goes by in Sheffield that someone doesn't ask, "Who was supposed to take care of that?" And the answer, "I don't know who was supposed to take care of that, but Ed Warren always did it."

It's high time to say how much we miss Ed Warren.

He was a charter member of the Historical Society and was active with the town Historical Commission, bringing his expertise as contractor, engineer, and carpenter to bear wherever it was needed.

He had enough faith in the fledgling Society to want to purchase the Dan Raymond House in hopes that the Society could eventually buy it. His labor and planning furthered the restoration.

He was the overseer of moving and restoring the Law Office, which his firm had donated to the Society. Many will remember Ed's clambering on the roof as the building settled on its new foundation. He worked on the carriage barn, the brick building, and the tool shed--busy shingling the roof as the first winter snowflakes fell.

And who can forget Ed's "dead men" and cables to straighten the Old Covered Bridge? His strategy didn't quite get the bend out, but it kept the bridge from sailing downstream like Noah's Ark.

Ed's contributions to Sheffield were too many to list here. As superintendent of Center Cemetery he brought order out of chaos. An active member of the Friendly Union, Ed worked toward maintaining Dewey Hall and in preserving the goals of the society. He served the Grange, the Regional School Committee, and was a charter member of American Legion Post 340. And what a clock expert he was, as both collector and designer!

In his family and in his town, Ed was quick to see a need, generous with his skills and help, ready with a smile, quick of wit, and possessed of a great capacity for deep and abiding friendship.

--Art Chase

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### HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

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Our annual Holiday Open House will take place at the Dan Raymond House on Sunday afternoon, December 9, from 3 to 6 p.m., just before the lighting of the Christmas tree on the village green.

A special feature this year will be a display of Christmas trees of various sizes, shapes, and decorations, to be shown in the Victorian Room. Our young people will sing carols and the refreshments will be luscious, so come one and all!



Sorry you missed the November program about two old Sheffield families, the Malnatis and the Bartholomews? Wish a friend could have been there? Come to the Family History Center, where we have a tape of the whole fascinating discussion.

# UNK and Other Notes

(from the Family History Center)

Among your family photographs, are there a few you can't identify? Oh yes! The Family History Center can tell you who that stern old gentleman is, or who that lady is, leaning against the porch railing so fetchingly.

He is dear old UNK. She is UNK too, for sure!

Their pictures are in every family's archives. Their names were never penciled on the backs of the photos while anyone still knew them--so now you look at them in dismay and no one is left to tell you who they were. Are they kinfolk, or only friends of your great-grandparents, or who?

Too late. Their names are UNKnown.

Don't put it off! Some evening soon, get your family pictures together and write identifications on the backs of all the ones you know!

Open hours at the Family History Center have been re-set for the winter months: 1:30 to 4 p.m. Mondays and Fridays--and other times by special arrangement.

The staff is presently engaged in sorting and cataloging a large collection of 18th- and 19th-century legal documents given to the Historical Society by Mr. Garrett H. Payne of Housatonic. The documents (some as early as 1740) include land deeds, indentures, court actions, etc., pertaining to several South Berkshire families from whom the donor traces descent.

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## ACQUISITIONS

The Sheffield Historical Society has received many acquisitions in the past few months:

A top hat and leather box, from Virginia Moskowitz.

Richard Combes's ink drawing of his mother, and a notebook of secret codes written by a child, both from David LeBeau.

A ledger book with many Sheffield names in it, from Helen McGoldrick. (Does anyone have her address? I need it.)

Two diaries that belonged to Lizzie Sage, dated 1879-1880 (more Sheffield names here), from Stanley Willcox.

The carriage barn's collection of old tools and other items is growing, too:

A broad ax and wood plane, from Lawrence Kervan.

A wooden bushel basket, old rake, corn knife, small ice tongs, 12-quart pail, and rug beater (remember the old beaters?) --all from Marge Cahill.

Two saws and a horse blanket, from Mason Dutcher.

It's very gratifying to have these gifts, and we want to thank all of you.

--Marion M. Barnum, Curator