



DAN RAYMOND HOUSE

SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

01257

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SPRING'S COMING!

March 8, 7:30 p.m., Dewey Memorial Hall

Samplers and Needlework. Grace Snyder, a specialist in textiles, will discuss samplers and needlework up to the 1830s, relating their history to the sociological and historical changes in our society and country. Mrs. Snyder and her husband, Elliott, operate an antiques shop in South Egremont. She will bring a few samples from her own collection, and the audience is encouraged to bring examples of antique needlework they may own.

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April 6, 2 to 4 p.m., Family History Center

Boardman/Hewins Exhibit -- see page 3.

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April 12, 7:30 p.m., Dewey Memorial Hall

Indian Artifacts. Michael and Rose Mary Quenneville, residents of Sheffield, will discuss their experiences as "surface hunters"--amateur seekers after archeological materials. The Quennevilles work closely with David Parrett, who gave a stimulating talk last year about his own work on archeological digs in this area. Parrett says that the Quennevilles have "one of the finest collections of artifacts in this region." They will display examples of their finds.

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May 10, 7:30 p.m., Dewey Memorial Hall

Shaker Architecture. John James, an architect in Sheffield with a longtime interest in Shaker architecture, will discuss several Shaker communities, illustrating his presentation with photographs and slides. A field trip to the Shaker Museum in Chatham, New York, is being planned for a later date in May. Stay tuned for developments!

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

For those of you who haven't been able to make the last few meetings, I'll try to bring you up to date.

Our December Holiday Party was a great dessert buffet with entertainment by the Friendly Chorus. This was put together by Marion Whitman and Catherine Miller--a fine job.

Our January meeting was our annual "What's It" and "Show and Tell." The weather that evening was treacherous, but there still was a good-sized group who enjoyed a fun evening. Thanks, Chris.

The February meeting was well attended by a large group who enjoyed the program "Sheffield Women of Action." Kathie Ness, Lillian Preiss, Claire Height, and Marion Barnum did a fine job. Fellas, if you didn't attend that evening, you missed an enlightening program!

Not only did we lose our green coffee maker--now we're losing our Secretary! Nancy Lecakis has other more pressing things to do at this time. We thank her for doing a great job--she'll be hard to replace. If anyone would be willing to help us out, please come forward.

In this letter I would like to acknowledge a member who was also the founder of this Society. A year or two before the Sheffield Historical Society was formed, a meeting was called for anyone interested in Sheffield history. A good group attended, but that was the last we heard of it. After some time passed, Lillian Preiss called for a meeting for anyone interested in forming a historical society. The meeting was held at the Grange Hall and a good group attended. They appointed Lillian temporary president. She took the reins and immediately created interest in meetings, which were attended by more and more people each month. We were organized, chartered, and have worked our way up to the present. Due to her devotion to history and to preserving it for the future, we now have a very active, growing Society. Thanks, Lillian--we appreciate it!

Now, to prove to you just how deep I can delve into the well of knowledge only to come up dry, I'd like to quote a little advertisement that tickled my fancy.

WANTED:

Good woman who can cook, sew, & clean house.

Must be able to clean fish and dig worms.

Must have boat and motor.

Please send picture of boat and motor.

NOTES FROM THE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

A new exhibit will open at the Family History Center on April 6, to run through the month of May. Continuing our series highlighting Sheffield families, this exhibit will focus on the Boardman and Hewins families.

Members of the two groups will be the special guests at the April 6 opening, from 2 to 4 p.m., to which everyone is invited. The exhibit may be viewed after that through May 31 during the Center's regular hours. Don't miss it!

The change in scheduling announced in the last newsletter is working out well. The Center is now open Monday and Friday afternoons from 1:30 to 4. We are fortunate to have three additional experienced and talented members to help with the research: Jean Blackmur, Claire Height, and Fran Warren.

Although we are not deluged with visitors during the winter months, we are all kept busy answering requests that have come to us by mail or through local referrals. Since the Center opened in October, we have responded to requests for information from the following states: Alaska, California, Florida, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, and Washington.

One source of information that is helpful is town reports, of which we have a burgeoning collection. If anyone can help us complete the collection, we would be most appreciative. The missing reports are all prior to 1946.

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ACQUISITIONS

Fran Warren has given the Society a fabulous group of molding planes and other hand tools. Milton Barnum and two boys from Berkshire School have been cleaning and polishing them. I am in the process of accessioning them at this writing. They will be on display in the spring. Thank you, Fran. We are indebted to you for such a gift.

Marion M. Barnum, Curator

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MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME! New member Phyllis Zucco, from Great Barrington.

Turn to page 4 for a membership application.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please fill out this coupon and send it with the proper amount to:

Membership, Sheffield Historical Society
P.O. Box 1733, Sheffield, MA 01257

Name _____ Tel. _____

Address _____ Amount _____

_____ Renewal ___ New member ___

I/we are aspecially interested in _____

I/we are willing to help out as volunteers for _____

Annual dues: Family \$5, Individual \$3

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NEW EQUIPMENT FOR THE SHS

Thanks to the initiative of the Education Committee, the Historical Society is the proud owner of a new projector and screen. These will be used for the Sheffield slide show and for other programs.