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SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

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SPRING/SUMMER ACTIVITIES

CURRENT

Bringing in the May. Exhibit at the Dan Raymond House.  
The Boardmans and the Hewinses. Exhibit at the Family  
History Center (see page 3).

TUESDAY, MAY 28

Tour of The Shaker Museum at Old Chatham, N.Y., and  
Shaker sites at Mt. Lebanon and Hancock.

Leading this tour will be architect John James, who generated considerable interest when he spoke on "Aspects of Shaker Architecture" at our May meeting. We plan to depart from the American Legion Hall by car caravan at 10 a.m. After touring the museum, we will have lunch at the museum restaurant--inside or in an outdoor covered area, depending on the weather. The route home will take us through Mt. Lebanon and past Hancock Shaker Village. We should be back in Sheffield between 4 and 5 p.m.

Please call trip organizer Sallee Hardy at 229-3523 before May 20 to reserve a place. It will facilitate arrangements if you will indicate whether you will be willing to accommodate additional riders or if you would prefer to ride with someone. (Museum admission and lunch costs will be paid on an individual basis.

A number of people signed up at the May meeting--we hope you will too!

FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 6:30 p.m., Dewey Memorial Hall

Annual Meeting and covered dish supper. Election of officers  
(see page 3) and committee reports. Bring your favorite  
covered dish and a place setting. (Note the 6:30 time.)

FRIDAY, JUNE 21 - SUNDAY, JUNE 23, Berkshire School

The annual Sheffield Historical Society Antiques Show.

On Friday evening there will be an Early Buyers Preview from 6 to 9 p.m. Admission is \$15 per person, refreshments will be served, and the Paradise City Blues Band will entertain us. This evening will be less formal--and less expensive--than past previews, giving more people an opportunity to get a first look at the displays and to make purchases ahead of the weekend throngs. The antiques show is the primary income-producing event for the SHS, so we count on your support.

Memorandum from the Square Office

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your President for the past year. As this is the last newsletter for the year, I want to thank all the officers who worked in any capacity and all the members who helped us to accomplish the goals set before us. I also wish the new officers for the coming year well. Let's give them the best support possible in their endeavors.

The Antiques Show is coming up shortly. The committee is working hard and with all of us pulling together, we'll make it a success.

The Society is a great group of people doing a fine job, and I'm mighty proud to be a part of it.

Thank you.

--Milton W. Barnum



Invitation to Our Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary



Marion and Milton Barnum cordially invite members to an open house celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday, May 26, from 3 to 6 p.m. at their home on Cook Road

No gifts please. Your friendship and presence will be our cherished gift and we respectfully request no other.

--Marion and Milton

An Appreciation

I would like to take a little space in this newsletter to remind you of one of Sheffield's finest citizens and one of our Society's first supporters -- that's right, Arthur Chase.

Art's busy life has taken him to many parts of the country, but we are happy that he decided to settle here in Sheffield. How gratifying it must be for Art to reflect on the many students he has helped in the quest for knowledge. At his home he enjoys explaining to young and old alike the workings of his sugaring operation and honey gathering, or taking a walk to his quarry.

When our Society was first organized, he was one of the first to pitch in and work at whatever task we undertook--working on the roof of the brick building and at auctions, or entertaining with his guitar at our picnics. When Sheffield observed its 250th anniversary, he worked hard to make it a success. He wrote and produced a very successful play, "All This Freedom Talk."

One newsletter doesn't allow enough room to mention even a small portion of Art's accomplishments. One thing he still does today, and that everyone looks forward to, is his rendition of "The Night Before Christmas" at our annual holiday party. We love and appreciate you, Art.

--M.W.B.

And We Thank You!

As the year draws to a close and we approach the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Sheffield Historical Society, we salute our outgoing President, Milton W. Barnum.

Milton was among the small group who met to lay the foundation for the Society and went on to serve on the first Board of Trustees. In 1976 he was elected President, serving four years. He and his good friend Ed Warren purchased the Dan Raymond House and held it until the Society had raised enough funds to buy it from them at the original purchase price.

Over the years Milton has been involved in just about every aspect of the functioning of the Society--frequently behind the scenes, but always with a good nature and gentleness. He has presented us with opportunities to help recognize some important aspects of our past while also contributing to improving our present.

Last year the nominating committee prevailed upon Milton to offer his quiet personality and expert knowledge of the inner workings of the Society as our President. So it was that a reluctant Milton Barnum became President of the Sheffield Historical Society again.

Asked to describe Milton, members who have worked with him this year and in the past have called him: quiet, gentle, good-natured, a good adviser, a confidant when needed, a fighter, a man of quiet wit. A man of dedication and commitment to our Society, his family, and the community ... but enough accolades, lest it go to his head. For just as has been said about another Barnum--P.T., that is--"Barnum was neither a total sinner nor a total saint." What our Barnum--Milton Barnum--surely is, however, is a total nonreplaceable ASSET. Thanks, Milton, for a job well done!

--Sallee Hardy  
First Vice-President

#### NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE

The Nominating Committee has placed the following names in nomination for office. The election takes place at the annual meeting on June 14, when nominations from the floor will also be accepted.

Chris Coenen	President	Boyd Hutchison	Director-at-Large
Marion Barnum	First Vice-President	Edie MacAusland	Secretary
Kathie Ness	Second Vice-President		

#### The Boardmans and the Hewinses: Two Family Histories

If you ever wondered (or thought you knew) why one of our principal north-south roads starts as Hewins Street at the south end of town and ends as Boardman Street at the north end, a visit to the Boardman & Hewins exhibits at the Family History Center will give you reasons a-plenty. The memorabilia of these two families offer a rare opportunity to see how certain names have become inextricable from the fabric of the town.

Entering the exhibit you are greeted inside the door by Walter Hewins's goat cart, with a snapshot of W.D.H. riding in the cart 80 years ago. You go on from there to the upstairs display of family treasures of every sort, including the handsome cradle made by the carriage-maker brothers of Sarah Loring Boardman for her child Edwin L. Boardman ("Gramp"), born in 1872--a cradle of astonishing length, as befits many Boardmans then and since!

The exhibit includes family trees and many photographs, to give you a glimpse of who is related to whom, and how. Don't miss it! The Center is open Monday and Friday afternoons, 1:30-4.

### A Word About the Sheffield Historical Society Gardens

Another spring has rolled around and our gardens have been cleaned out and spruced up, ready to bloom again.

I think not too many of you have taken the time to walk around the grounds. Things look so pretty in season. We are lucky to have these historic buildings and we should keep the gardens looking well as a setting for them. We believe they add to the appearance of the Historical Society complex.

The viburnum near the lamppost in front of the Dan Raymond House is flowering and the perennials are coming along--all a bit ahead of schedule after our strange winter. The border along the stone wall on the southside of the property looked really nice last summer. For a couple of years Kathy Moore, our landscaper, has been nursing the gardens along, and they are now beginning to show for it.

By late spring we hope to erect a fence along the north side of the Family History Center. It will match the one in front of the Dan Raymond House. And so, gradually we accomplish the things we want to do. We feel this addition will add to the pleasing picture of our complex.

If you have a plant you can spare, either for the herb garden or for the flower beds, it would be appreciated. We like to stay with the old varieties that would be suitable for a late 18th-century or early 19th-century garden if possible, although we do add an annual here or there for color. If you have a plant donation, please call Penny Browne at 229-8598. Perhaps we can pick it up.

--Penny Browne

### Who's Doing What

Boyd Hutchison, worker of wood and Shaker adaptations, has received a commission to reproduce eighteen pieces of Shaker furniture for Coach Leatherworks' new store in East Hampton, Long Island, scheduled to open in late June.

Architect John James has been selected to guide the restoration of the first black meeting house on Nantucket. The property, presently in disrepair, is owned by the Museum of Afro American History in Boston.

### Acquisitions

Mr. and Mrs. Tinker have donated a wedding gown worn by Mr. Tinker's mother. We hope to have a display of wedding gowns in our possession during the summer.

Checking all the items in the Dan Raymod House for identification has been completed, and the list will be typed up soon. It was a time-consuming job: it took two of us one day a week all winter to complete the task. I want to thank Lillian Preiss for her help, which was greatly appreciated.

--Marion M. Barnum, Curator