

Mr. & Mrs. Milton Barnum
Cook Road
Sheffield, MA 01257



DAN RAYMOND HOUSE

SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

01257

Vol. XVIII, No. 1
July 1991

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY, JULY 28, 4:00 p.m., Dan Raymond House grounds
Annual Picnic. Bring a covered dish to share--and a place setting and lawn chair for yourself. The SHS will provide refreshments (including Milton Barnum's famous, or perhaps notorious, switchel) and watermelon for dessert.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2 to 4 p.m., Family History Center
Opening of the Willcox Family Exhibit. The exhibit will run through September 27. See page 3 for details.

THURSDAY - SATURDAY, August 8 - 10, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Annual Open House. Three-day open house at the Dan Raymond House and the Family History Center. Displays will include a wedding dress exhibit.

BEST-EVER ANTIQUES SHOW

Despite an electrical failure on Sunday afternoon, which forced an early closure, the annual Antiques Show was a resounding success. Mort Levin, our treasurer, reports that we brought in \$11,544--\$3500 more than in 1990! Much of this increase is attributed to the less expensive preview on Friday night. Congratulations to all who worked so hard.

OFFICERS, COMMITTEES . . . AND YOU!

Attached you will find the list of elected and appointed officers and committee members for 1991-92. Please let us know if you are interested in serving on a committee or in helping out for a specific event--we are always looking for volunteers! And let us know if you have ideas for committee projects, too.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 1991-92 season of the Sheffield Historical Society! Once again I have the privilege of leading the Society in its mission of education and preservation. Educating the younger generation about their cultural past and assisting adults in tracing their roots are two very important functions of any historical society, and I'm proud that the Sheffield Society has been a leader in this mission in our small corner of Massachusetts.

Preserving the past serves as the first function. Without artifacts and documents, history just becomes a cerebral exercise without any substance to it. We must not, however, dwell solely on our past performances but must also look to the future. Acquiring more "things" is useful only if it helps fulfill our stated goals. What can we do to make history more alive and tangible to our constituency? One of the programs I hope to initiate this year is an oral history project. There is a vast, and fascinating, storehouse of knowledge in our community that has gone untapped for too long. How often have we listened to Milt Barnum and Loring Boardman talk about the "old days" and wished we could remember some of those stories. It is my earnest hope that we can start preserving some of those memories on tape. I'm sure we all have old family anecdotes that have been handed down through the generations. Oral tradition has a long and rich history. Wouldn't it be marvelous to have the very words spoken by your grandmother, describing her first day of school! This is something tangible that we can do for our children and their descendants. As this project gets under way, we will be looking for your support.

As always, we will be presenting enlightening programs for your edification at our monthly meetings, as well as occasional social gatherings such as the Annual Picnic, to take place next week.

Finally, I'd like to thank Milt Barnum and Sallee Hardy for their fine leadership last year. It's safe to say that there might not be a Sheffield Historical Society without Milt, and Sallee worked tirelessly to put together many of the programs and functions that we enjoyed so much. The Society has a tradition of hard work that is the envy of many of our larger counterparts. I'm proud to be part of that tradition.

Sincerely,
Chris Coenen

NEWS FROM THE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

Five generations of the Willcox family will be featured in a new special exhibit opening at the Family History Center on Sunday, August 4.

Not only has the Willcox family produced many personalities noted in Sheffield annals, but through branches its heritage is largely shared with the French, Candee, and Smith families as well.

The Willcox name is linked to landmark buildings on three Sheffield farms where the family made significant contributions to the history of farming in this town, from 1800 to World War II. The first Willcox to come to Sheffield built the brick farmhouse on Boardman Street at Covered Bridge Lane (most recently the Lund sheep farm). Later, a Willcox operated the old Aaron Root farm (the "1750 House") at South Main and Silver Streets and, still later, the Spurr farm, where Berkshire School Road and Undermountain Road intersect (long known as Walter Prichard Eaton's "Twin Fires").

After the formal opening on August 4, the Willcox Exhibit may be seen during the Center's regular open hours--Monday and Friday from 1:30 to 4 p.m.--until September 27. Visitors to the Family History Center will also be able to see Katherine Kelly's remarkable eighth-grade project on the history of the Cary family, which is on loan through the summer.

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BAY STATE HISTORICAL LEAGUE VISITS SHS

The Sheffield Historical Society is one of eight organizations chosen by the Bay State Historical League to be included in a list of places of interest for League members. Members of the League will be visiting the Dan Raymond House and Family History Center on August 9, during the Open House, as part of their program to see what other historical societies are doing.

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SHS SCHOLARSHIP GRANTED

The Sheffield Historical Society, through its Education Committee, has awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Mount Everett graduate Brooke Loder, who will be attending Connecticut College this fall.

A CHANCE TO SAY THANK YOU

On Sunday evening, June 2nd, Wes Peterson, the superintendent of buildings and grounds at Berkshire School, called me and described the havoc that the storm of May 30th had raised at the campus. The small, quiet brook that winds through the school property had suddenly decided to play the part of a wild torrent, disrupting everything in its path. The hockey rink, where the Historical Society antiques show is held, was all set up for the school graduation, with 1200 chairs, rubber floor mats, and stage in place. When the water roared through with a vengeance, there wasn't a chair left standing. Everything was buried in mud. The playing fields were a mess of debris and some of the driveways were undermined. Wes said that his men were working overtime and they had put on extra help besides. The next thing that the rink would be used for would be our antiques show, and he wondered if there was any chance of us giving him a hand with picking up the chairs.

Well now, I assure you I hate to see anyone in trouble, but this time I thought what a great opportunity for us to give back a little favor for all the good will and kindness that the school has shown us in the past few years by opening the rink for our show. I immediately called and received the o.k. from ten men to report at 8 a.m. the next morning.

By late afternoon the 1200 chairs had been taken out of the mud, brought to the garage, cleaned, dried, and stacked. We were a mess from head to toe, but every one of us was thankful that we could give a hand to someone who had done so much for us. The following men thank the school for that opportunity: Bill Bennett, Bill Browne, Correll Chapin, John Downie, Roger Drury, Don Haworth, Gordon Height, Larry Kervan, Dennis Sawyer, Carl Schumann, Milton Barnum.

Thank you--

Milton Barnum

Sheffield Historical Society 1991-1992

<u>President</u>	Christopher Coenen
<u>1st Vice-President</u>	Marion Barnum
<u>2nd Vice-President</u>	Katherine Ness
<u>Secretary</u>	Edith MacAusland
<u>Treasurer</u>	Morton Levin
<u>Directors</u>	Grace Arzt, Virginia Drury, Boyd Hutchison, William Preston
<u>Investments</u>	Bill Browne
<u>Curator</u>	Marion Barnum
<u>Archivist/Historian</u>	Lillian Preiss
<u>Director of Family History Center</u>	Roger Drury

Committees (*Chairperson)

<u>Finance</u>	Morton Levin*, Bill Browne, Roger Drury, Neal Hardy, John James
<u>Accessions</u>	Marion Barnum*, Penny Browne, Edie MacAusland, Muriel Rokos, Joan Sawyer
<u>Museums</u>	Marion Barnum*, Agnes Boardman, Penny Browne, Roger Drury, Lillian Preiss, Evelyn Willcox
<u>Education</u>	Kathie Ness*, Grace Arzt, Renee Gibson, Marion Whitman, Claudia Ziobro
<u>Programs</u>	Kathie Ness*, Mason Dutcher, Lillian Preiss, Edie MacAusland, James Miller
<u>Newsletter & publicity</u>	Kathie Ness
<u>Property & grounds</u>	Milton Barnum*, Penny Browne, Jim Lecakis, Dorothy Marosy, William Preston
<u>Family History Center</u>	Roger Drury*, Jean Blackmur, Betty Chapin, Holly Coon, Claire Height, Lillian Preiss
<u>Membership</u>	Grace Arzt
<u>Refreshments</u>	Virginia Drury
<u>Turkey dinner</u>	Milton Barnum
<u>Christmas meeting</u>	Virginia Drury
<u>Antiques show</u>	Chris Coenen, Coordinator