



DAN RAYMOND HOUSE

SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

01257

Vol. XVIII, No. 3
November 1991

WINTER ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, Dan Raymond House, 3 to 6 p.m.

* Annual Holiday Open House: The Dan Raymond House will be beautifully decorated for Christmas, a collection of Santa Clauses will be on display, and delicious refreshments--hot mulled cider, coffee, tea sandwiches, cookies, cakes--will be served. We look forward to seeing you there!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, Dewey Memorial Hall, 6 p.m.

* Holiday Celebration -- gala roast beef dinner, musical accompaniment, and a surprise presentation. Come at 6 o'clock and bring a place setting (silverware, dinner plate, and coffee cup). Call 229-3368 for reservations, please. See page 3 for details.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, Dewey Memorial Hall, 7:30 p.m.

* What's It Night: Milt Barnum's popular evening of guesswork and ingenuity. We'll have a selection of items to challenge your knowledge, and if you have any mystery items around your home or barn, do bring them in--whether or not you know what they are!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, Dewey Memorial Hall, 7:30 p.m.

* A program on Black History -- details in the next newsletter.

We Did It -- Thank You!



The Turkey Dinner Committee thanks all who contributed and worked so hard to make our recent dinner such a great success. It was because of your many hours of devoted labor that we ended with a profit of \$1,527.26.

We received many fine remarks from the diners--and how great it was to see the eighth-graders doing such a fine job.

Many thanks.

-- The Old Gobbler (Milton Barnum)

Did you see the article in the "Berkshire Record" about the Turkey Dinner? Our fame is spreading! It's reprinted on page 4.

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Antidote for the Winter Doldrums

The Education Committee is working on plans to offer a selection of workshops during February and March. These will range from half-day to several-day projects, offering members a chance to learn how to hook or braid rugs, make baskets or herb wreaths, construct Shaker-style boxes, bake bread in a wood-fired oven ...

If you have a special request or suggestion for a workshop topic, let us know. And if you have some expertise to offer, we'd love to hear from you! Contact any of the committee members--Marion Whitman, Rene Gibson, Claudia Ziobro, Grace Arzt, or Kathie Ness.

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Christmas Shopping

If you're looking for a gift that features Sheffield and the Berkshires, don't forget the Berkshire County Historical Society calendars for 1992. They're available at the Dan Raymond House and cost \$6.95 (from which the SHS receives \$3.50).

And if you're thinking of giving a present--the Family History Center is sorely in need of a typewriter. If you have one you aren't using, please call Roger Drury and be our Santa Claus!



THE HOLIDAY DINNER



Virginia Drury and crew will be putting on a gala Holiday Dinner for our December program on the 13th. We know there will be a big turnout, but the space in Dewey Hall limits us to 100 diners. Please call Kathie Ness at 229-3368 as soon as possible to make your reservations--we certainly don't want to have to turn anyone away at the door.

The evening will have a Victorian flavor. If you are so inclined, come in Victorian dress--or even with a touch of Victoriana in your outfit. We can't tell you if this has anything to do with the surprise presentation, because we don't know what the surprise is! All we can tell you is that certain secretive Historical Society members are preparing a very special "tableau" for us all to enjoy at the conclusion of the meal.

And speaking of the meal, can you resist cranberry juice followed by roast beef, baked potatoes, mixed salad, and rolls--and sorbet and cookies for the finale? All accompanied by live piano music? Better make those reservations now!



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 _____

I/we are specially interested in _____

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

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



Fifty-eight home-made apple crumb pies were only part of the menu.

Turning Turkey Into Scholarships

By Thelma O'Brien

SHEFFIELD—Ever so many turkey dinners later, 320 to be semi-exact, a Mt. Everett High School senior is \$1,000 closer to paying for college, and a whole number of eighth graders are closer to a deeper understanding of the region's colonial antecedents.

The 18-year-old Sheffield Historical Society made \$1,514 this year to help send a senior to college and to pay for historical tours for Southern Berkshire School District eighth graders.

Long-time society member and former president Milton Barnum said the group, headquartered in the 1776 Dan Raymond House, has been hosting a fund-raising turkey lunch/dinner since 1979 when the society needed to meet a matching state grant to have the old covered bridge repaired.

That first effort yielded nearly \$1,500 and the 260-plus members have been raising money for one thing and another ever since. The earnings, which average right around \$1,300 annually, are now applied to scholarships and field trips, according to current President Christopher Coenen. This year's meals, served in two shifts, were served in the American Legion Hall.

Among those sitting down for the \$7 pre-Thanksgiving repast of cole slaw, white and dark meat from 12, 26-pound turkeys, cranberry sauce, stuffing, squash, mashed potatoes, gravy, rolls and butter, coffee and tea, and 58 homemade apple (crumb and crust) and pumpkin pies, were Ruth Filkins of South Egremont who says she comes to the annual event because:

"You see people you don't ordinarily see. And, when you live alone you can't cook a turkey and Stouffer's can't cook a meal like this."

She was sitting with friends, Barbara and Marion Cronk, sisters who live together in Great Barrington.

"We come because we like the food and the atmosphere," said Barbara Cronk. "It's fun."

Also attending were Ruth and Mason Dutcher of Sheffield who have been members of the society for eight years and usually help serve, but not this year.

"The historical society is one of the best things ever to happen to Sheffield," said Mason Dutcher, a retired traveling man in the hosiery business. "We're learning more about ourselves and it's all to the good. Self-awareness is valuable and it's valuable for the town to know its history."

Sitting opposite the Dutchers were Vera and William Conklin of Ashley Fall, also members of the society. A retired dairy farmer, William Conklin said the cows are gone now from his land but his grandson has gone into the sod business and uses about half the 100 acres for that.

Sitting to his left was Durward Willcox, also of Ashley Falls, who retired in the mid-1970s from the state Department of Public Works after 39 years with the highway department. He is a member of the society, along with his wife Marion who was sitting up at the pie table.

She reported on the number of pies and was responsible for marshaling the bakers. "Most people baked two," she said. "Some just baked one."

Up from Terryville Connecticut, or from their cabin on Twin Lakes, were Elizabeth and Robert Bandish, a retired steelworker's union representative.

"I'm retired from hell," he said, adding that he's been coming to this meal for several years. "Everyone's friendly, and we come for the food and to meet people." He said also he was very concerned about the economy, about the high unemployment rates in his part of Connecticut.

"I'm a big gardener," he said, "and nowadays I give half the stuff away to senior citizens. I'm telling you, there's gonna' be a revolution in this country if things don't change." He said he thought George Bush ought to be grounded for about six months "not let out of the country."

On hand was Mt. Everett social studies teacher William Gilooley, who was supervising eighth graders as they served dinners, bused tables and generally added youthful enthusiasm. For their troubles they get to eat second shift and be served by society members. They also are served a so-called colonial breakfast in the spring.