



DAN RAYMOND HOUSE

SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

01257

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WINTER - SPRING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 1 to 4 p.m.

Tour of the Torborg house. See below.

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

Program on black history in the Berkshires by Jon Swan, playwright, journalist, and author of several articles on Mum Bet.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25 - Crafts classes begin. See pages 2 and 3.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 7:30 p.m., Dewey Memorial Hall

Donald McGrory, of McGrory Oriental Rugs in Great Barrington, will present a program on oriental rugs, illustrated with examples from his collection.

THURSDAY, APRIL 9 - Genealogy classes begin. See page 4.

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

Historic gardens. Stephen McMahon, superintendent of the Trustees of Reservations properties in this area, will discuss early gardens--and in particular the historic garden at the Mission House in Stockbridge, which is currently being redesigned.

*** A VERY SPECIAL INVITATION ***

Nancy and Gery Torborg have invited the members of the Sheffield Historical Society to tour their home on Sunday, January 26, from 1 to 4 p.m. This fine center-hall colonial, built around 1760, originally belonged to the Hubbard family (Jonathan Hubbard was the first minister in Sheffield). It is on the west side of Main Street (Route 7), just north of the Sheffield Plain Cemetery and opposite Dovetail Antiques. The Torborgs have recently renovated and restored the house, and they'll have plenty of "before" pictures for us to examine.

Please note that this generous invitation is open to SHS members only. We hope you will be able to attend.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Well, here we are, with the winter in full swing and everyone starting to feel the pangs of "cabin fever." I hope you can attend some of the workshops we have planned to fight off some of the effects of the long winter. It's always fun to get together to work on projects with others who have the same interests. It's also a chance to make some new friends or renew acquaintance with old chums.

I would also invite you down to the Family History Center on a Monday or Friday afternoon to see what is going on or to take in the exhibit. You might even find yourself getting involved in a research project. If you like detective stories, this is the place to be!

Once again we had some stumpers at the annual What's It program. There was a fine turnout, with many new faces, and a lot of fun was had by all. The Program Committee has planned some very interesting programs for the spring, and I hope you get to attend them all. Finally, remember that the Antiques Show is only five short months away! This will be our biggest and best show yet, in the newly refurbished Berkshire School Field House. Mark it on your calendars: June 19, 20, and 21.

WORKSHOP CALENDAR

Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
Feb 24	25 Spinning 10-12:30	26	27	28	29 Bread baking 2-5	Mar 1
2	3 Spinning 10-12:30	4	5	6 Shaker boxes 6:30-9:30	7 Rug hooking 10-3	8
9	10 Spinning 10-12:30	11	12	13 MONTHLY MEETING 7:30	14	15
16	17 Spinning 10-12:30	18 Baskets 9-12	19	20	21	22
23	24 Spinning 10-12:30	25	26	27	28	29

* * * CRAFTS WORKSHOPS * * *

The Education Committee is offering the following workshops in historic crafts during late February and March.

Please note: We expect that these classes will be very popular, and we urge you to send in the enclosed form, with payment, as soon as possible. Enrollment will be limited to Historical Society members until February 10. After that date, any openings will be announced in the local papers. (If we are heavily over-subscribed, we may be able to offer extra sessions of some classes.)

SPINNING. Students will learn how to select and prepare wool for hand spinning -- including carding, spinning, plying, blending fibers, dyeing, and spinning exotic fibers. Note: Spinning wheels are required. If you do not have one, let us know when you enroll, and we'll arrange for rental. No wheel is necessary for the first class. The class fee includes a fiber pack.

Instructor: Linda Becker

Dates: 5 Tuesdays, Feb. 25 - Mar. 24 **Time:** 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Location: Dan Raymond House **Fee:** \$67.50

BREAD BAKING. Bake bread the 18th-century way: in a wood-fired brick bake oven. You will learn about preparing the dough, will enjoy a cup of tea and a taste of bread hot from the oven, and will take home your own sample of delicious country-style bread.

Instructor: Virginia Drury

Date: Saturday, February 29

Time: 2 to 5 p.m.

Location: Barnum residence, Cook Road

Fee: \$3

SHAKER OVAL BOXES. Make classic Shaker oval boxes with a master craftsman. After this one-session class, you will have completed your own box to take home. The fee covers all supplies.

Instructor: Boyd Hutchison

Date: Friday, March 6

Time: 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Location: Hutchison Woodworking, Route 7 **Fee:** \$25

RUG HOOKING. Learn the basics of this popular needle craft by creating a hooked-rug doorstep (a cover for a brick). The fee includes all supplies. Bring your own lunch, and a pair of scissors, to this all-day class.

Instructor: Babs Barrett

Date: Saturday, March 7

Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Location: Dan Raymond House

Fee: \$40

BASKET MAKING. You'll learn about basketry while creating your own candle basket--a reed basket designed to hang on the wall, originally used for storing tapers. Bring an apron if you like; the fee includes all supplies.

Instructor: Jo Ann Catsos

Date: Wednesday, March 18

Time: 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Location: Dan Raymond House

Fee: \$15

FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

The Family History Center recently received two volumes on the genealogy of Long Island families, donated by Ursula Kilner in memory of Arthur Chase. We are very grateful to Mrs. Kilner for honoring Arthur in this way.

GENEALOGY CLASSES PLANNED FOR SPRING

There has been so much interest in the subject that the Family History Center has decided to sponsor a second series of genealogy classes.

Kathleen Reilly, a professional genealogist and former research assistant in the Local History and Genealogy Department at the Berkshire Athenaeum, will conduct the six-week course. Topics include getting started in tracing a family history, the use of published and microfilmed records, and the utilization of church, cemetery, court, military, and immigration records.

Classes are scheduled for six Thursdays, from 1 to 3 p.m., starting on April 9. One session will take place at the Athenaeum, where its collections will be introduced and guidance provided for using them.

There is a fee for the series, and class size is limited. For information, call Roger Drury at 229-2687 or Betty Chapin at 229-2000.

HOLIDAY THANKS

The annual Holiday Dinner was a festive evening--the result of the dedication and efforts of many SHS members. We were delighted to have such a fine turnout, and we especially want to thank the Sheffield Market and Astro Beef for their help in making the dinner a success.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We miss some longtime members who've moved away recently, including Irene Cranmer and Neal and Sallee Hardy. At the same time we welcome new faces, among them Fern and Elliot Chapnick and William Mitke.

As it approaches its 20th anniversary, the Sheffield Historical Society boasts over 250 members!

COMPUTER WOES

No doubt about it--this newsletter isn't as easy to read as earlier ones. That's because it was created on a new computer, and the old printer doesn't work on the new machinery...yet. We think we'll have everything hooked up and running properly for the next edition, and then we can go back to a better-looking typeface. Keep your fingers crossed!