



DAN RAYMOND HOUSE

Sheffield Historical Society
Sheffield, MA 01257

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SPRING/SUMMER ACTIVITIES

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 7:30 p.m., Fellerman Glassworks, South Main Street

Steve Fellerman will demonstrate glassmaking techniques. See page 3 for details on this special "field trip" meeting.

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 6:30 p.m., Dewey Memorial Hall

Annual meeting and covered dish supper. Election of officers for 1992-93 and presentation of committee reports. Bring a place setting and a hot casserole, salad, or dessert. We will celebrate the Society's 20th anniversary with a special program, so be sure to attend! (Note the 6:30 time, please.)

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, THROUGH 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, wine and cheese will be served, and a classical guitarist will perform. This is your chance to get a first look at the displays (and to make an early purchase), before the crowds arrive on the weekend. The hours on Saturday and Sunday are 11 to 6. The antiques show is the Society's primary income-producing event, so we count on your support.

AND LATER IN THE SUMMER . . .

We'll have our annual picnic on the Dan Raymond House grounds. The date will be announced in the next newsletter.

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As I sit down at my desk on a beautiful spring day (finally!), I am tempted to reflect on this past year in the Society. Since this is my second term as president and my fourteenth year as an officer, I have gained some perspective.

In many ways this has been a good year for the Historical Society. We are in a sound financial situation because of the wise investment policies of the Financial Committee and the generosity of past donors. The Dan Raymond House looks better than ever, thanks to the guiding hands of Marion Barnum and Penny Browne and their committees. Most exciting has been the work of the Family History Center, with Roger Drury and Lillian Preiss at the helm. Probably more than anything else we are doing right now, the Family History Center will be appreciated by future generations. As a repository for genealogies, it will be an invaluable resource for the community. But even more than that, the photographs, audio tapes, and artifacts that are being collected and preserved will give our children, and their children, a real picture of what Sheffield was like in the past. I hope you will make good use of this Center and support their efforts.

Another satisfying sign that the Society is prospering has been our monthly meetings. One of my goals this year was to present programs with wide-ranging appeal. On several occasions we had overflow crowds in attendance. Our next meeting will be a departure from tradition as well. For the first time we will meet on location instead of at Dewey Hall. This next meeting will gather at Fellerman Glassworks on South Main Street for a glassblowing demonstration. You won't want to miss this one! The Program Committee has done a wonderful job organizing these meetings.

Before I finish, however, there is one area that concerns me. The Sheffield Historical Society has always been known as the hardest-working group in the county. It's what makes us special. Unfortunately, and this is typical of small societies like ours, it is getting harder and harder to fill the ranks of officers. Many of us have served in several capacities and are ready to turn the reins over to others who are just as well qualified. The tasks are not difficult and require very little time commitment. I sincerely hope that many of our new members, as well as longtime members, will feel comfortable in helping the Society in this way. It's a lot of fun and very rewarding.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

-- Chris Coenen

THE MAY MEETING

We are offering an unusual and exciting program at the May meeting: Stephen Fellerman, well known for his contemporary art glass, will demonstrate glassmaking techniques and will create several traditional pieces as we watch. Steve also has a 19th-century glass press on display, and he'll discuss some of the history of glassmaking.

Please note that we will not meet at Dewey Hall. The entire meeting--including the usual announcements and refreshments--will take place at Fellerman Glassworks, which is about 1/2 mile south of town on Route 7. There is ample parking there, but we do encourage you to carpool if possible, as we're expecting a large turnout for this very special program.

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Interested in Historic Gardens?

The size of the audience for the April program on historic gardens tells us that many of you are interested in the subject. Now here's a chance to put your enthusiasm to work!

Many of us have admired the herb garden that the Sheffield Garden Club has created at the Colonel Ashley House. The club is now looking for some volunteers to help maintain the garden through the growing season. It's a small plot, so it will take only about half an hour, one day a week. If five or six people sign up, the assignment can be rotated, so each person would be committed to only two or three sessions during the whole summer. The club will provide a training session for all volunteers.

This is a pleasant way to enjoy a lovely historic garden close up--without having to take much time away from your own pursuits. Please call Barbara Person at 229-6625, or Kathie Ness at 229-3368, to volunteer some time or to get more information.

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Who Will Win the Afghan?

If you missed the April meeting, you haven't yet seen the beautiful "Summer Seashells" afghan Grace Arzt has made, to be raffled off to benefit the Historical Society's scholarship fund. This is the fourth year that Grace has donated an expertly handmade afghan. We'll have it on display at the May meeting and at the antiques show. Please make sure you pick up a raffle ticket, along with several extras to sell to your friends. The drawing will take place in August.

Something New

Have you noticed something new around the corner at the Dan Raymond House? Come take a look at our handsome new well house, constructed and installed under Milton Barnum's supervision. Modeled on a well house at Sturbridge Village, it was built by Walter Agar and set in place with the help of Bill Preston, Dana Barnum, and the crew at Gulotta's Mobil. The timbers are hand-hewn, and the wide boards were sawn with a vertical saw to represent old boards. We think you'll agree that it's a fine addition to our complex of historic buildings!

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Workshops a Resounding Success

Fifty people attended crafts workshops sponsored by the Education Committee during February, March, and April. The rug-hooking and basket-making sessions were well attended and thoroughly enjoyed, and the bread-baking and Shaker box workshops had to be repeated to accommodate the numbers who signed up.

If you'd like to see more workshops offered in the future, and if you have suggestions about other crafts to be explored, please let us know.

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Students Enjoy "Historical" Breakfast

The annual breakfast for Mount Everett eighth-graders was held at the Dan Raymond House on March 20. It was a great success, attended by twelve students and two teachers. Milton Barnum cooked over the open fire--and just to make you wish you'd been invited, here's the menu: spiced fruit, scrambled eggs and bacon, pancakes with maple syrup, homemade applesauce, and hot chocolate. Some of the children made their toast over the open fire, and for dessert they enjoyed strawberry shortcake.

Chris Coenen held a mini "What's It" program--which was a lot of fun, evoking some wild answers. And Lillian Preiss introduced the students and teachers to the Family History Center.

It was a pleasure to have the boys and girls as guests at this event.