



DAN RAYMOND HOUSE

Sheffield Historical Society
Sheffield, MA 01257

Vol 19, No. 2

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since our last newsletter, the Societies gatherings and the monthly meetings have been well attended. Thirty three people took the bus trip to Kinderhook, New York. There are many lovely, old homes in that area. We have Grace Arzt to thank for arranging such a pleasant and relaxing trip that was enjoyed by all the participants.

Now that the holidays are fast approaching, mark your calendars for these special events. The Christmas open house on December 6th will have a special glow this year. Make plans to attend and then go on to the tree lighting ceremony on the village green. Also coming up is the Christmas Dinner meeting on December 11th.

The live Christmas tree craft project was held with eight people making a lovely mini tree. Everyone was very happy with their finished tree.

Don't forget the "What's-It" program in January. Everyone always has a good time and you may learn something new.

Happy holidays to all!

Marion M. Barnum

"YUP! YOU DID IT AGAIN"

You came through for the 14th time in great fashion. Those who say we have nothing to do here in the country sure don't look around.

All the turkeys and gravy are gone and the potatoes and the rest of the vegetables went with them, and 303 satisfied customers left us with a profit of \$ 1,325.00. Now I call that a good show and well worth the effort of many faithful members and friends. How about those students! Didn't they do a fantastic job, and Sgt. Catherine and her troops put out the first sitting of 153 dinners in 14 minutes- that's remarkable! We thank each and every one of you who helped in any way.

Thank you for a job well done.

Sincerely,
From the Empty Turkey Pen

NOTES FROM THE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

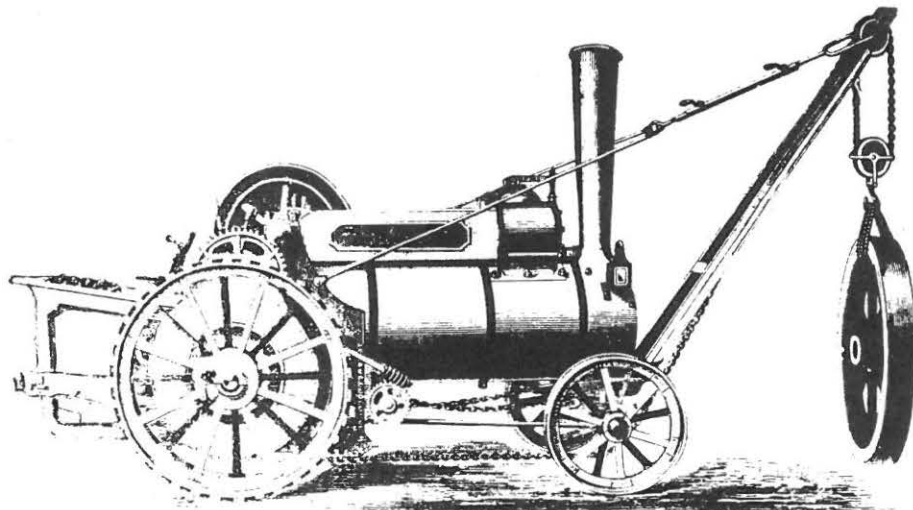
The big news from the Family History Center continues to be the Roys Family Exhibit which enjoyed a crowded opening on November 1 and will stay on view throughout the winter. Members of the Society are encouraged to make a unhurried visit to this fine exhibit on a Monday or Friday afternoon, between 1:30 and 4:00. Allow plenty of time to savor the rich assemblage of family artifacts, photographs, books, and other papers provided by Miss Mildred Roys for the display. Better yet, come twice!

Throughout our town's history, the Roys Family has produced noteworthy individuals, staying attached to the same farm lands along the Undermountain Road where the first Roys settled in the eighteenth century.

The work of the Family History Center and the research services it offers were described in a well-received talk at the Grange last month by Betty Chapin, and again will be the subject when Lillian Preiss speaks before the Roeliff Jansen Historical Society in Copake on November 17.

HOOSAC TUNNEL DRAWS LARGE CROWD

The October meeting played to a standing room only crowd. Combining local history with railroading always brings out a large audience. Charles Cahoon, former president and of the North Adams Historical Society and local expert on the Hoosac Tunnel, kept the audience spellbound with his tales of engineering fact and fancy. Begun in the 1850's as a way to get manufactured goods from Fitchburg to the West, the tunnel took nearly thirty years to complete and cost 195 workers their lives. Begun at either side of the mountain, the tunnels joined with less than an inch of deviation from each other. One of the major problems was water. Nearly 650 gallons a minute gushes out of the mountain tunnel. Despite the difficulties involved, including working with highly explosive nitroglycerine, the tunnel was completed in 1883 and signalled a rapid growth of industry and commerce in Northern Berkshire County. The tunnel is still in use today for commercial service and an occasional tourist trip.



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION - STEAM-POWERED LOCOMOTIVE CRANE ENGINE, WITH PATENT SIDE-PLATE BRACKETS.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 6: Holiday Open House, 3-6 PM

The Dan Raymond House will be glowing with "The Magic of Red and Gold" - the theme of this year's Christmas decorations. Come and enjoy the house at its festive best and partake of the refreshments (cookies, coffee, hot mulled cider, holiday cakes) before going on to the carol singing on the town green.

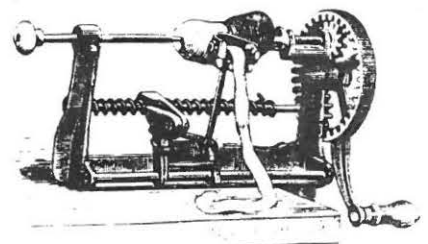
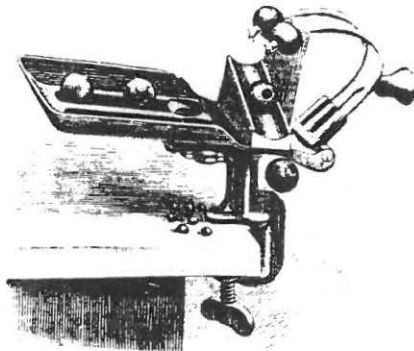
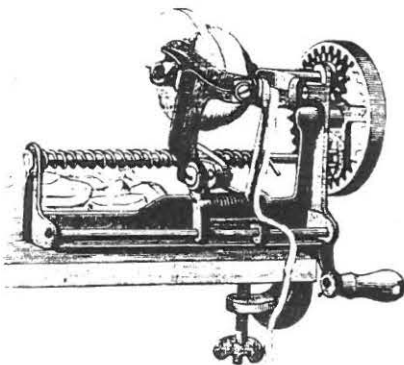
Friday, December 11: Covered Dish Holiday Dinner, 6:30 PM

Bring a place setting and a covered dish to share. We'll supply the beverages, the dessert, the decorations, and the musical entertainment for this annual celebration. This is always an especially happy get-together. If you're not a cook, bring some fruit, or some olives or a relish and join us.

Friday, January 8: What's-It Night, 7:30 PM

Search those attics! Ransack the barn! Can you find an old widget, gadget or gewgaw that can stump Milt Barnum and his crew of mechanical triviologists? This is also an opportunity for you to tell an interesting story about some long lost family relic. Also on this year's program will be a special contest that you won't want to miss. Bring the kids and come early and stay late.

The Dan Raymond House Committee is always looking for volunteers to be docents. Why not spend two hours a month learning about the house and showing visitors around? Talk to Marion Barnum, Penny Browne or Lillian Preiss or just stop by. They'd love to see you!





MASSACHUSETTS BUILDING.

Massachusetts.

Massachusetts brought before the world, as her State Building, a specimen of Colonial architecture, quaint-looking, derived partly from the English and partly from the French, and it attracted considerable attention. This was one of the few of the State buildings which adopted as their model the style of houses common to Colonial times. It is one of the largest and best appointed State buildings on the grounds, and consisted of one square section with annexes at the ends and a tower with peaked roof rising from the centre. It was colored in brown with stripes of chrome green. The grounds were very prettily laid out, with different colored flowers tastefully arranged in beds and patterns. In front of the building stood a little fountain fed by a hose. In front of the entrance was a pretty porch flanked by long piazzas, which were provided with cane-seated benches, and had baskets of flowers hanging from the roof. The main entrance hall was cool and spacious, with rows of comfortable seats, and a large old-fashioned fire-place with mantel of wood. The hall also contained an organ, and a bookcase filled with standard works. At the north end of the hall was an office with a register and post-office, and on the right of the entrance was the Governor's reception-room, very richly furnished, with paintings on the walls, a handsome Japanese screen and a number of other ornamental objects. On the left was the ladies' parlor, somewhat similarly furnished, and provided with a grand piano. Massachusetts had her State day on September 11th, on which occasion the attendance of visitors amounted to 97,868.