



SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

01257

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September 1974

DEMONSTRATION OF OLD-TIME FRAMING

Al Petersen and Ed Warren will demonstrate old-time framing at the first society meeting of the 1974-75 season September 13 at 7:30 in Dewey Memorial Hall. This is an antique method which has proved its effectiveness and should be most interesting to observe.

This will be a novelty in our programming and should "relieve the dullness of history!" In her March 2, 1894 report as clerk of the Sheffield Friendly Union, Julia Atkins Miller wrote: "I am aware that there is a feeling that some of our lectures are too profound for general acceptance. The lecture committee take great pains to have a variety of topics so as to suit all classes, and they have ample room in the programme for entertainments to relieve the dullness of history."

MOVING THE LAW OFFICE

Early on the morning of August 7 the Parker Hall law office, having been securely boxed in and hoisted onto a trailer truck the day before, started its journey down Route 7 to the Little House grounds. There it was guided by Ed Warren onto a new stone foundation.

Slides of the moving process will be shown at the September 13 meeting. Volunteers are needed for non-professional work in connection with the restoration. We hope you will express your willingness to help.

BUS TRIP TO SEE RESTORED LAW OFFICE

If enough people are interested, we could sponsor a trip to either Old Sturbridge Village or the Farmer's Museum in Cooperstown, N.Y. Both villages include a beautifully restored nineteenth century law office among other appealing exhibits and demonstrations.

At our next meeting we will have more information on costs and possible dates. If you cannot attend the meeting but are interested in going on the trip, please let Lillian Preiss know at 229-8726.

BUMPER STICKERS

Bumper stickers bearing the legend "Bicentennial Begins Here" have been received from the Massachusetts Bicentennial Commission. Those now on hand will be available at our next meeting, and more can be ordered if wanted.

MEMBERSHIP FOR 1974-1975

This copy of the newsletter goes to all past and present members. Future issues will be sent only to current members since this is one of the benefits of membership. If there is any doubt about whether you have paid your dues for '74-'75, please call Alice Hurlburt.

The Board of Trustees is seeking a volunteer to assume the responsibility of editing the newsletter. If you are interested, please let us know.

The society's fiscal year runs from June 1 to May 31. Dues for the current year may be sent to: Mrs. R. Walter Hurlburt, Ashley Falls, Mass. 01222. The following coupon is for your convenience in remitting dues.

Name _____

Address _____

<input type="checkbox"/>	Junior Member (under 18)	\$.50
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual Adult Member	3.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Joint Membership	5.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustaining Members	10.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Business Firms	25.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Life Members (exempt from annual dues)	50.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Benefactors (exempt from annual dues)	100.00

RECENT ACCESSIONS

Several fascinating articles have been donated recently by Liliias Warner. Among them is a scrapbook from which the above quotation from Mrs. Miller's report was taken. Also included were a steel engraving of Edward Everett, a copy of the New-England Galaxy of July 4, 1828, and a copy of the Ulster County Gazette of January 4, 1800.

Four scrapbooks containing some local material were donated by Mrs. Mary Hulett, now of Kent, Connecticut. Ruth Chapin has given a copy of the February 3, 1766 Connecticut Courant, which includes interesting comment on the reaction of the people to the Stamp Act, as well as the report of a lecture on "full-bottom'd wigs."

As our collection of artifacts grows, it becomes increasingly apparent that we need storage and display space. More people should have access to this rich storehouse of information.

DEVELOPMENT FUND

An energetic, enthusiastic, active committee under the chairmanship of Carl Cranmer and Winnie Clark has succeeded in raising a total of \$13,563 in cash and pledges toward the purchase of the Little House. This figure includes the proceeds of several projects representing the efforts of many people. Our August 3 auction, sparked by Marion Barnum, cleared a little over \$1,300, including the sale of hot dogs and soda by Millie Smith and her young helpers. The patchwork quilt was won by Andy Weinberger of Brooklyn, who bought his raffle ticket at the auction. Some very generous checks and pledges have added to the present healthy total. Our heartfelt thanks go to all who have contributed.

Mrs. Harry Warren has made and donated a beautiful braided rug to be raffled off or used in any way we choose to benefit the society. Ideas are welcome on whether we should have another raffle or whether we should try to find other ways to earn money on such articles.

BUSING IN SHEFFIELD IN 1903

Late in 1903 the Sheffield school committee decided to reopen the schoolhouse on the Plain, which had been closed for nearly a year. The plan was to bus the colored children from the New Guinea district to the Plain school, where they were to be taught by Miss Cora Fowler, a young colored woman who had graduated from Sheffield High School at the head of a class of ten. These children were not "enjoying proper school opportunities," according to Supt. Collins, because of irregularity of attendance due to the condition of their clothes, lack of transportation, and indifference on the part of some parents.

When the school opened, no children appeared on the first day and only three on the second day. Shortly thereafter the school committee received a letter from a Boston lawyer stating that he had been retained by interested parties to file a complaint against them, alleging unjust discrimination against the Negro children in trying to insist on their attending a separate school devoted to members of their race and taught by a colored woman.

And you thought that busing problems were confined to the present day?

MEMBERSHIP

Dues for 1975-76 are now due. Some memberships were paid at the annual meeting in June, but if you would like to join by mail you may send your check to the treasurer now.

Please remit to: Mrs. R. Walter Hurlburt, Ashley Falls, Mass. 01222

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Amount enclosed _____