



SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

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NEWSLETTER

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September 1976

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Lillian Preiss will be the speaker at the opening meeting of the 1976-1977 season to be held September 10 at Dewey Memorial Hall starting at 7:30 p.m. Her talk, entitled Historic Preservation in Germany, will be illustrated with slides taken on her recent travels in East and West Germany. Nuremberg, Munich, Rothenburg, Heidelberg, Frankfurt, and Trier are among the cities visited.

We are fortunate in arranging this talk so soon after the Preiss's return.

SHEFFIELD: FRONTIER TOWN

After a number of agonizing delays, Excelsior Printing Company assures us of delivery of Lillian's history this week. It is a handsome, hard-bound book with town seal, end papers, inset map, chapter headings drawn by Margaret Philbrick, and dust cover—a worthy monument to Lillian's selfless devotion to this demanding project.

An autograph party will be held Sunday, September 19, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Westenhook Gallery, at which Lillian will be available to autograph the title pages, Margaret Philbrick, the drawings, and Art Chase, the poem "And Always New Frontiers," which serves as an end piece of the history.

The price of Sheffield: Frontier Town is \$7.50.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

An officer of the Berkshire County Historical Society recently expressed amazement at the range of summer activities in Sheffield and the number of members involved.

The Bicentennial Ball, under the chairmanship of Marion Barnum, with assistance from Milt, Dwight Ford, Margery Kirchner, and Millie Smith, brought out a distinguished collection of costumes that reappeared a week later in the jury box for Mumbet's case in the Sheffield play, All This Freedom Talk. Both events celebrated the Sheffield vote for independence of June 18, 1776.

The first Arts, Crafts, and Quilts Festival, engineered by Bob Krol, brought together over fifty craftsmen and a magnificent collection of quilts. Bob had yeoman assistance from Millie Smith, Jean Curtiss, Pamela Krol, Iona Brigham, Viola Bagnaschi, Carl Cranmer, Shears Boardman, and a lot of others.

The quilters were well represented by the work of Agnes Boardman, Winnie Clark, Trudy LeGeyt, Vera Conklin, Irene Cranmer, Marion Barnum, Rachel Willcox, Virginia Siter, Dorothy and Betty Dinan, Marian Willcox, Louise Stevens, Phyllis Whalen, and Alice Schumann.

In addition during the summer the Bicentennial Quilt had assistance from Margaret Philbrick, Esther Kervan, Alice Warren, Frances Warren, Evelyn Willcox, Minnie Markham, Mrs. Paul Batacchi, Mrs. Jost, and Betty LeGeyt.

Featured in the Great Barrington parade were the Budweiser Clydesdales and the Sheffield Historical Society float, powered by Francis Nourse, Sr. and transported by the American Legion wagon. The float depicted a Quilting Bee that included Agnes, Winnie, Trudy, Vera, and Virginia, and the Signing of the Sheffield Declaration (1773) by Milt, Loring, Charlie Viall, and Art--- (those same costumes!)

Bright weather brought a fine crowd to the society auction to hear Auctioneer Bill Bradford knock down the impressive collection of antiques and attiques handed him by Chairman Milt Barnum, Lewis Leffingwell, Shears Boardman, Loring Boardman, and Durward Willcox, while Millie Smith provided refreshments, Marion Barnum recorded, Muriel Rokos, Winnie Clark and Carl and Irene Cranmer assisted, Agnes Boardman, Ruth Leffingwell and Dorothy Dinan ran a tag sale, and Arthur and Alice Ann Chase sold books.

The proceeds from summer activities carried the Development Fund past the \$30,000 mark and strengthened our hope of taking possession of the Dan Raymond House in 1976.

OFFICERS

With the end of Lillian Preiss's term as President and Muriel Rokos's as Program Chairman, we have some feelings of apprehension. The new officers have great need for suggestions and assistance from everyone. The officers and chairpersons for 1976-77 are:

President, Milton Barnum
Vice President, Arthur Chase
Treasurer, Marion Barnum
Secretary, Agnes Boardman
Program Committee, Vera Conklin, Wesley Warren, Arthur Chase
Publicity, Lillian Preiss
Refreshments, Helen Woodbeck
Newsletter, Arthur Chase, Lillian Preiss
Curators, Muriel Rokos, Alice Ann Chase
Membership, Alice Hurlburt
Goals, Carl Proper

INCIDENTAL INFORMATION

The Berkshire County Historical Society has scheduled a South County bus trip from Pittsfield, October 6th, which will include a lunch stop at The Shed and visits under the guidance of Lillian Preiss to the Old Covered Bridge, the Law Office, Town Hall, Dan Raymond House and Old Parish Church.