



SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS  
01257

NEWSLETTER

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CHRISTMAS MEETING

The December meeting of the Sheffield Historical Society will begin with a "covered dish supper" at 6:30 on December 10 at Dewey Memorial Hall.

Important request: please bring your own place setting—a dinner plate, a cup and saucer, and knife, fork and spoon.

We are very grateful to Helen Woodbeck and her able committee: Mrs. Loring Boardman, Mrs. Edwin LeGeyt, Mrs. William Conklin, and Mrs. Dorothy Dinan, for planning this festive occasion.

Mrs. Wilfred Millet is in charge of the entertainment, which will follow a short business meeting.

SHEFFIELD: FRONTIER TOWN

With Christmas coming on, we have been pleased with the interest of Sheffield residents, both present and past, in having Lillian's history mailed out of town. The mail order business is being handled by Art Chase with padded envelopes and postage included in the 75¢ shipping charge.

Mr. and Mrs. Silk have given most generous assistance in selling several hundred autographed copies at the Sheffield Pharmacy without any commission beyond the thanks of the Sheffield Bicentennial Committee. They will stock books through the season—a great Christmas idea for the person "who has everything."

QUILTING COMMITTEE

The lucky winner of the diamond-shaped quilt last completed by the quilting committee was A. Lockwood of Wethersfield, Connecticut. Congratulations to the winner!

### BRIGGS GRAVESTONES

On page 86 of Sheffield: Frontier Town is the statement:

"The Briggs quarry was most active following the Civil War, when John R. Briggs received a contract for 100,000 stones for veterans' graves at \$2.65 a stone."

Last month one of these marble stones, discarded because of a chipped edge, was set up at the corner of the foundation on which the Briggs mill once stood. To anyone sighting it from Berkshire School Road: No, it's not a new bury-patch.

### SOUTH BERKSHIRE TOUR

During October we were honored by inclusion in the South Berkshire tour of the Berkshire Historical Society. Two bus loads of archivists were met by Lillian Preiss at their lunch stop at The Shed Restaurant. She pointed out some of the highlights of early Sheffield history and later escorted the tour to the Old Covered Bridge, the Dan Raymond House, the Parker Hall law office, and the Old Parish Church.

At the town hall Selectman Dwight Ford and Margaret Ford, in their prize-winning bicentennial costumes, welcomed the visitors to the display of Sheffield's most cherished document, the Sheffield Declaration of 1773.

### GOALS COMMITTEE

On November 17th Carl Proper, chairman of the Goals Committee of the Sheffield Historical Society, hosted a meeting of members to discuss the acquisition and use of the Dan Raymond House.

Emphasis was placed on:

- (1) the priorities in repair and renovation required after the house is taken over,
- (2) the need for a detailed statement of the projected uses of the house after acquisition.

### NOVEMBER MEETING

Last month Jesse O'Hara shared with us some of the fun as well as the hard work involved in researching one's family tree. Jesse is well qualified for such an assignment for he is a member of numerous genealogical organizations. He is currently working on research for Americans of Royal Descent.

The cheapest way to have your family tree traced is to run for public office.

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