



SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS  
01257

NEWSLETTER

Vol. IV, No. 3

March 1977

APRIL MEETING

The Sheffield Historical Society and the Friendly Union will join forces in presenting the Storrowton Village Dancers at Dewey Hall on Friday, April 1 at 8 P.M. The Historical Society will hold its business meeting at 7:30 prior to the entertainment.

Admission is free to members of both organizations and \$1 for non-members.

The Storrowton group, consisting of a caller and twenty dancers in costume, will demonstrate a variety of period sets that should recall festive evenings at the Ashley House and in the several inn-ballrooms of colonial Sheffield.

UNANIMOUS VOTE FOR DAN RAYMOND HOUSE

At the March meeting the Sheffield Historical Society reached a signal milestone when President Milton Barnum called for a vote on the acquisition of the Dan Raymond House. The large Society attendance approved the purchase of the house unanimously (or as Theodore Sedgwick wrote at the end of the Sheffield Declaration, Nemine Contradicente).

Near April 1 the Society will complete the purchase for \$29,500 from Milton Barnum and Edward Warren who bought the house in September 1973 and generously held it until the Society could raise enough money for its purchase. The members may well be proud of this acquisition which gives an educational center for Sheffield and a home for the Society.

BOUNTIFUL BREAKFAST

On Saturday, March 25, another group was initiated in the delectable rites of fireplace cooking by Carl and Sally Proper. These memorable events bring joy to the guests and comfort to the Development Fund.

After the vote on the purchase of the Dan Raymond House Milt Barnum and Vera Conklin presided over an illuminating and at times hilarious collection of "show-and-tell" items.

Among the relics that did not defy identification were Roger Drury's remarkable writing-and-shaving-desk of a sea-faring ancestor, Marie Walbridge's opium pipe, (drugs were a problem way back when) Richard Combes' 18th century tea set of remarkable origin, and Lillian Preiss' collection of bells for every animal but the cat. Featured were camel, water buffalo, and elephant bells. Reverend Herbert Robinson demonstrated a mechanical check-writer to protect good and bad checks from being altered. Loring Boardman's "whatzit" was designed to defeat any energy crisis. (Mr. Schlesinger take notice.)

Vera Conklin's oven produced delectable prizes for the experts (and not-so-experts) in identification.

#### PLEDGES DUE

Members and friends who made pledges to the Development Fund for purchase of the Dan Raymond House have scored a remarkable record in keeping up their payments. As this news letter went to press only three pledges totaling \$290 can be said to be due or past due.

A total of \$9,285 was pledged during the campaign. Of this amount \$3,100 by four members is due the day the Historical Society formally takes title to the property. Two more pledges totaling \$600 are still outstanding because they were made late in 1976 and are not due until 1977 or 1978.

It is hoped overdue pledges will soon be paid, as the funds are needed now for the work of restoration.

Meanwhile new pledges by members and friends to begin the first stages of restoration would be welcomed.

#### SPRING FASHION SHOW

On Tuesday, April 26th at 8:00 P.M. the Sheffield Historical Society in co-operation with England Brothers in Pittsfield is sponsoring a Spring Fashion Show in the large cafeteria at Mt. Everett Regional School. Twelve tables will be decorated representing each month of the year. Door prizes including the center piece from each table will be given away.

Tickets at \$2.00 each will be available at the April 1st meeting and as it is important that a minimum of 200 be sold, the cooperation of all our members is needed.

Twelve models are needed, willing to invest one trip to Pittsfield for a fitting---for the pleasure of being a model the night of the fashion show.

Every Society member is responsible for making a "fancy dessert" for the refreshment table. Contact Mrs. William Elliot at 229-2126 to tell her what you will bring.

Any one willing to work the night of the fashion show as ushers or ticket takers, or with any questions---contact Robert Krol at 229-7955.