



SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
01257

NEWSLETTER

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DECEMBER MEETING

A surprise program will be presented at our Christmas meeting on December 9 at Dewey Memorial Hall. All we will say is: "Don't miss the surprise!"

Virginia Drury has graciously consented to serve as chairman of the covered dish supper, which will start at 6:30 p.m. Her committee requests that each one bring a complete place setting except for a dessert dish. Unless otherwise solicited, each person whose last name begins with the letters A-M are also asked to bring a "meat type" casserole large enough to serve eight. Suggestions: baked beans, macaroni and cheese, meat loaf, scalloped chicken, fish casserole, etc. Those whose names begin with N-Z should bring a vegetable dish to serve eight. Suggestions: tossed salad, string bean casserole, gelatine salad, creamed onions, etc. Please also bring serving utensils.

The committee will supply tea, coffee, milk, pies, and rolls. Those few who are unable to bring prepared dishes are invited to make a contribution toward the buying of the beverages, the butter, the cream, the decorations, and so forth. Many thanks from Marion Barnum, Virginia Drury, Carlton Mott, Muriel Rokos, and Helen Rote.

OPEN HOUSE

Breakfast at the home of Carl and Sally Proper, dinner with Milton and Marion Barnum, and now dessert with Lewis and Ruth Leffingwell - all for the benefit of the Sheffield Historical Society! The breakfasts and dinners have already taken place, and those fortunate enough to have been able to partake of the sumptuous repasts have said a hearty thank-you to their hosts. At both homes there was a convivial gathering in a setting reminiscent of days long gone. It was great fun and delicious food for a worthy cause.

On Sunday afternoon, December 11, Ruth and Lewis Leffingwell will open their 1761 house, also for the benefit of the society. Guests will enjoy coffee and dessert and have an opportunity to visit a charming old house - all for just \$1.50. The open house will run from 2 to 6 p.m. Don't miss this one!

DAN RAYMOND HOUSE NEWS

Our current exhibit at headquarters is a collection of tinware belonging to Richard Combes. This display will continue through April, when another exhibit will be shown.

A lady from Spencertown, N.Y., visited the house recently to see our slide/tape show. She is preparing one for her town.

(30) The D.R.H. Committee is planning a "bring-a-teacup-or-teaspoon" party for June 23 in an effort to build a collection of cups for the society's use. There will be a special exhibition of dolls and doll furniture at that time.

Don't forget our annual auction on July 28. If you have anything to donate, let Milton Barnum know.

RECENT DONATIONS

The following articles have recently been donated to the society: a letter opener which belonged to President William McKinley from Barbara Hurlburt Brooks; a painting of Sage's Ravine and a watercolor sketch of Mount Everett Regional School by Walter Cole from Willard French; an advertising souvenir of Cassidy Brothers store from Josephine Hamilton; four place settings of ironstone from Carl Proper; and two lovely cups and saucers from Marion Barnum.

SHEFFIELD'S OLD COVERED BRIDGE

Although not a historical society project, strictly speaking, there is no group in town which should be more interested in the preservation of one of Sheffield's most cherished landmarks than our society. We cherish it not only for its aesthetic and historical significance but because it stands as a testimonial to the skill and ingenuity of our forefathers.

The Connecticut River Valley Covered Bridge Society has donated \$500 to the Sheffield Historical Commission toward the preservation of this historic structure, and the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges has donated another \$500. These funds will be used to match a grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission, if our application is approved. The selectmen have agreed to insert an article in the town meeting warrant asking for an appropriation of \$5,000 toward the restoration of the bridge. A concerned citizen has promised to underwrite the cost of hiring Milton Graton, the foremost covered bridge builder in the country, to come to Sheffield as a consultant.

A broad base of support for the project will help immeasurably in our quest for funding. Anyone who would like to contribute toward saving a valuable Sheffield antique, probably the oldest covered bridge in Massachusetts, may send a check to the Sheffield Historical Commission for the "Save the Bridge Fund," % Lillian E. Preiss, chairman of the S.H.C., Sheffield 01257. Charles Kuralt has noted that America has lost half her covered bridges in the past twenty years by flood or by neglect. The Connecticut River Valley Covered Bridge Society has adopted as its motto, "Remove not the ancient landmark which thy fathers have set." (Prov. 22:28)

MEMORIAL FUND

Over \$400 has been donated to a fund established in memory of Kurt Preiss, who passed on February 4. He was a willing worker in many of the society's projects, and he would be pleased to know that its goals are being furthered in such a way. Lillian wishes to express her heartfelt gratitude to those who contributed so generously to this fund.