



SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS  
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NEWSLETTER

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CHRISTMAS MEETING

The menu for our December meeting includes an appetizer of Christmas gaiety, an entree of reverence in keeping with the season, and a dessert of Christmas music. Traditionally, this meeting has included a holiday dinner and entertainment rather than a serious discussion.

Virginia Drury, our ingenious chairman for the dinner, has enlisted a superb committee to help with a great idea: each table will have its own roast turkey together with the familiar accompaniments. Various society members have been asked to help with the cooking, for which everything will be furnished by the committee. The charge for the dinner will be a modest \$2!

Virginia has asked that each person bring his own place setting: dinner plate, dessert plate, cup and saucer, and silverware. Napkins will be furnished. Remember - December 8, 6:30, Dewey Memorial Hall.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Do you remember our gala open house in December 1973, before we had acquired the Dan Raymond House? If you do remember, you'll surely want to come this year, and if you don't remember, you'll most certainly want to come this year.

The Dan Raymond House, decorated for Christmas, will be open for the whole community from 4 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 17. Simple refreshments will be served. All members are encouraged to invite their friends. We are hoping to make this a community-wide tradition.

REGULAR HOURS AT THE DAN RAYMOND HOUSE

An auspicious beginning for opening our headquarters to the public on Friday afternoons from 2 to 4 has been reported by the Dan Raymond House committee. On the first day, October 27, we had visitors steadily from 2 to 4; on the third day the hours lengthened to 4:45. It has been most gratifying.

Alice Hurlburt of the Berkshire Courier, Dick Delmasto of the Berkshire Eagle, and Bernard Drew of the River Valley Chronicle have taken pictures of the quilt and will have a story for their respective papers.

The committee, consisting of Marion Barnum, Alice Ann Chase, Ethel Mertsching, Lillian Preiss, Carl Proper, and Muriel Rokos, is formulating goals for the house, drafting an accessions policy, opening during regular hours, planning exhibits, planning educational programs, maintaining a sales table, showing our historical slide/tape program on request, selling raffle tickets, and opening the law office for visitors.

Carl and Irene Cranmer will be host and hostess there on the day after Thanksgiving, and Lillian Preiss will show the slide-tape history at 2:30 p.m.

#### CURRENT EVENTS

Items for our 6th annual auction and tag sale are already coming in, President Barnum has reported. Keep your eyes peeled for articles which you can add to this July 28th event.

Our society contributed toward the cost of the public address system at Dewey Memorial Hall so that all may hear what is being said. Each paying one third of the cost were the S.H.S., the Freindly Union, and the Council on Aging.

There's always work to be done at the Dan Raymond House, as any homeowner knows. On one day recently a group of members - Milton Barnum, Lewis Leffingwell, Carl Proper, and Ed Warren - put a new roof on one side of the pottery shop behind the house. On Veterans Day a clean-up crew raked leaves, cut brush, and spruced up the grounds. Working outside on a beautiful November day were Loring Boardman, Arthur Chase, Lewis Leffingwell, Kurt Preiss, and Charles Schumann.

#### PRICE CHOPPER FUND DAY

December 11 has been designated S.H.S. Fund Day at Price Chopper in Great Barrington. We tried to get a date before Thanksgiving, but the choice dates had all been spoken for. Next year we'll have to start earlier.

Fund Day cards will be available at the Dan Raymond House and also at our December 8 meeting. Remember: five percent of all funds spent at Price Chopper on December 11 will be returned to the society, but you must present a pink card at the time of purchase in order to have the amount credited to the society.

#### MEMBERSHIP

Every once in awhile we hear rumors that some people think of the historical society as a closed corporation. Nothing could be further from the truth! Let's all work to dispel that bit of fiction. Although we have an appointed membership committee - Agnes Boardman and Nancy Boardman - each member of the society should consider himself a part of the membership committee. Spread the word wherever you have an opportunity. We heartily welcome participation of all kinds - membership, attending meetings, and visiting the house. Agnes and Nancy will have more on this subject anon.

#### DO YOU SAVE TOP VALUE STAMPS?

The Dan Raymond House has need of many items that could be obtained at the TV stamp redemption store; for example, lamps, tables, coffee pot, clock, house-keeping accessories, etc. If you save TV stamps but don't have time to paste them in the books, you're welcome to donate loose stamps to the house committee. If you wish to donate completed books, the committee will thank you doubly!

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Do you have a helpful idea to share with other members? Here's a vehicle for communicating with like-minded people. Short letters of constructive comment or suggestion regarding the society or the newsletter will be published in future issues. Please send to Arthur Chase or Lillian Preiss, editors. Address simply: Sheffield, MA 01257.