



DAN RAYMOND HOUSE

SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

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Spring is here. Just last week we saw our first flock of robins and if that doesn't bring to mind milder weather and a new round of Society summer activities nothing does.

It has been an eventful fall and winter for the Society and the town of Sheffield, the most noteworthy event for the community being the successful completion of the fund raising for the old covered bridge. Our society made a sizeable contribution to the drive. More of that later in the Newsletter.

REGULAR MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS. All meetings at Dewey Memorial Hall, 7:30, unless otherwise noted. Mark your calendar.

April 11. Lee Wool, Mill River, will provide a program on hats, a subject appropriate to the spring season. More importantly, it will be informative and amusing.

Refreshments: Frances Warren, Irene Armstrong.

May 9. Anthony King, executive director of the Berkshire County Historical Society will show a short film entitled "Berkshire Legacy". It deals with the lives of five Berkshire County residents whose impact on history has been felt--Hawthorne, Melville, Wharton, French, Rockwell.

Refreshments: Olive Gaylord, Vera Conklin, Trudy LeGeys

May 31. Outdoor Antiques Show. Be sure to save this date as much help will be needed. Carl Proper is again in charge.

June 13. Our Annual Dinner Meeting under the capable direction of Mrs. Helen Rote. Dewey Memorial Hall, 6:30. Note the time change.

July 13. Box lunch social. Here, men, is a chance to meet that special girl. Each lady will bring a fancy box lunch to be auctioned off to the highest bidder--that's where the men come in because they get to share it with the one who prepared it. But that's not all. We hope to have a blacksmithing demonstration too. A fund and fun raiser for the Society at the Dan Raymond House, beginning 1:00 p.m. Wear historical costumes.

REGULAR MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS -- (continued)

July 26. Annual Historical Society Auction and Tag sale. We desperately need items for this important and traditional fund raising event so don't throw out that Queen Anne table, donate it to the auction. The success of this event hinges on your donations and any contributions will be gratefully appreciated.

September 12. First meeting of the fall. No program yet. What do you suggest?

OF THINGS PAST --

Only eight months into the effort, the old covered bridge fund reached its goal. At the regular February meeting, President Milton Barnum announced the termination of the drive to attain \$25,000 to qualify for a matching grant to restore Massachusetts' oldest covered bridge on Covered Bridge Lane, Sheffield. Lillian Preiss, Chairman of the Historical Commission, began the drive that saw donations come in from across the country.

Stabilization work to protect the structure from winter and spring weather began last November when local volunteers, guided by the restoration project's chief engineer, Milton Graton, installed five cables to straighten and anchor the bridge. The remaining work will soon be underway. Our fall Newsletter will have details.

DAN RAYMOND HOUSE NEWS --

Art Chase has a display in our headquarters on the history of maple sugaring. Art is a well known member of the society who operates a sugar bush in town. The house and his display of artifacts are open to the public each Friday afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00. Drop in and bring a friend.

Richard Combes was kind enough to donate a collection of Antiques magazines to the society and they are housed there also. They are available to the public if anyone has a need to use them.

NEW MEMBERS --

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Scherer
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ledlie
 Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Granger
 Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Brewer
 Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Malnati
 Miss Helen Hurlburt
 Mr. and Mrs. Howard Mott