



DAN RAYMOND HOUSE

SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

01257

Volume IX, No. 2
Fall, 1981

Dear Member:

The activities and successes of the past twelve months, and the plans for the ensuing year are the best indicators of our progress. Behind us is an active, successful year and your officers and committees are preparing plans for an even greater year to come.

The Society depends on volunteer help and donations to a very great extent and this past year so many people gave freely of both, it would be impossible to name each of them. They deserve special recognition and thanks from the membership. As the new year rolls along we hope to have the assistance of even more members, both old and new. What better way to begin the fall season than to attend the September meeting, to find out something of the year's plans and how you can fit into them.

Please mark your calendar. Regular meeting dates are the second Friday of each month, 7:30, Dewey Memorial Hall, unless otherwise noted.

September 11. Tom Thumb will be the subject of a slide lecture by Chris Coenen, who is a collector of memorabilia relating to P. T. Barnum's midget, born Charles Stratton in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and his wife, born Mercy Lavina Bump of Middleboro, Massachusetts.

The evening's refreshments will be provided by Ethel Mertching, Irene Cranmer, and Caroline Treiber.

October 9. Mrs. Ethel Wilson of East Granby, Connecticut, will speak on Eighteenth Century restoration. Mrs. Wilson was brought up in a 1720 house in Amherst. She assisted the Granby Historical Society in its Eighteenth Century restorations and furnishings projects and resides in an Eighteenth Century house restored by her and Mr. Wilson.

Refreshments following the meeting will be compliments of Marian Willcox, Alice Hurlburt, and Bessie Coons.

November 13. Wallace Nutting: The Man, His Work, His Influence will be the highlight of the November meeting. One of Sheffield's new residents, a collector of Nutting's works and owner of Covered Bridge Antiques, Thomas Carpentier will discuss Nutting's influence in his times, how his direction differed from that of his contemporaries and how he impacted American style. Members and guests may bring one example of Nutting's work for comment by Mr. Carpentier.

Agnes Boardman, Marian Garrahan, and Carmella Delmolino offer refreshments.

December 11. Annual Christmas Dinner and Program. We are fortunate for yet another year to have Virginia Drury head this holiday event. She will be asking for help as time draws nearer. As in the past, bring you own place setting. Time is 6:30. Reservations required and a small charge will be made to cover expenses.

ANNUAL MEETING -

Officers and Committees for 1981-82 -

President, Catherine B. Miller
 Vice-president, Christopher Coenen
 Secretary, Agnes Boardman
 Treasurer, Marion Barnum

Trustees -

Milton Barnum
 Penny Browne
 Lillian Preiss

Curator of Dan Raymond House -
 Lillian Preiss

Curator of Photography -
 Christopher Coenen

Dan Raymond House Committee -

Marion Barnum
 Irene Cranmer
 Richard Combes, Consultant
 Ethel Mertching
 Lillian Preiss
 Carl Proper
 Sally Proper

Dan Raymond House Grounds Committee -

James Miller
 Loring Boardman
 Arthur Chase
 Margaret Philbrick
 Caroline Treiber

Antiques Fair -

Carl Proper
 Sally Proper

Newsletter -

James Miller
 Grace Arzt

Treasurer, Development Fund -

Viola Bagnaschi

Turkey Dinner Committee Chairpersons -

Milton Barnum
 Penny Browne
 James Miller

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE -

Major emphasis has been directed toward the Dan Raymond House and its contents. Money was appropriated for the completion of the second bedroom in the apartment of the house with the work to be done by the tenant. A new heating system is to be installed this fall. Two furnaces will heat the apartment and the Society's headquarters separately. This big project is to be supervised by Milton Barnum and Carl Proper. The windows and trim are being painted Lynchburg Green and new windows installed. The bay window in the south parlor will be removed in Spring 1982 and the wall bricked in. Plans are in motion to begin the task of cataloging and filing several hundred glass plate negatives that Cris Coenen has put in order. The executive committee is looking for some individuals with a willingness to assist.

OF THINGS PAST -

The Dan Raymond House Committee wishes to thank everyone for their cooperation during the wonderful doll exhibit held August 6, 7, and 8. About 100 people stopped by to visit and admire the lovely dolls and also to observe the improvements that have taken place in the house since last summer. We had promises of some antique additions for the house as a result of the visits. The Quilters group has graciously consented to make the curtains for several of the rooms in the Dan Raymond House. This will be a fall project and will add greatly to the interior of the house.

A couple of local young ladies (ages 11 or 12) discovered the house for the first time and enjoyed it so much they went out and brought in some friends to see the lovely collections of dolls.

I am so pleased with the increased interest shown each year, that it makes it so worthwhile being open each Friday from 2 to 4 p.m. and also for special events. Please stop by and say hello.

-----Marion M. Barnum, Chairman

Under the energetic direction of Carl and Sally Proper the Society again enjoyed the rewards of a successful Antiques Fair during the Memorial Day weekend. The Propers presented the Society with a check for proceeds of \$4,000 to be used on the Dan Raymond House restoration and furnishings. Work well done, Carl and Sally!

OF THINGS PAST (continued) -

Our Tag Sale, in lieu of the annual auction, realized a net of \$680. This money, too, is for the Dan Raymond House work. While the selling itself was fun, the ladies who worked so hard in preparation of the event certainly exceeded what the Society could reasonably expect from them.

The Quilting Group recently announced the winner of the most recent quilt made by the group. She was Miss Tamara Delmolino, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Delmolino, Lime Kiln Road, Sheffield.

About 25 members and friends availed themselves of the opportunity to attend the Annual Picnic. Ample food, good fun, and a slide show on Sheffield prepared and narrated by Lillian Preiss made for a successful afternoon.

REMINDER -

It's dues time again, still available at the popular prices of yesteryear. Single membership is \$3.00 and family membership \$5.00. If you are unable to attend a regular meeting, dues can be sent to Marion Barnum, Treasurer, Sheffield Historical Society, Sheffield, MA 01257.

The Sheffield Historical Commission will hold a dedication of the new Old Covered Bridge on Sunday, October 4 at 2:00. The public is invited to come early, enjoy a picnic and inspect the work of Milton S. Graton Associates. William Preston, vice-chairman of the Commission, will be master of ceremonies. The Society as well as many of its individual members played a major role in this historic restoration.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

The big plump turkeys are on the loose. If you see anyone stalking the fields of harvest this fall, don't shoot. It'll be Penny, Jim, and Milt. They're headed for the game in preparation for our annual Turkey Dinner.

We hope the harvest will be in and the north foundations will be banked so that we can all take time out on October 25 to enjoy this fine dinner at the American Legion Home on Route 7. Dinners will be served this year at 12:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.

We have 13 turkeys being roasted, 40 pies being baked for this super affair so don't eat for a week ahead of time. You'll make the cooks happy, and you will be able to get out those clothes that you put away after you went on that last diet.

Don't forget, October 25. Come and bring a friend.

----- The Three Giblets

The 250th Anniversary of Sheffield Committee has held three Photo Discovery Days, during which Chris Coenen, our curator of photography, has copied old photographs of the town brought in by area residents.

The Committee is planning to publish a photographic record of Old Sheffield in 1983 to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the incorporation of the town. Anyone who has pictures he would like to share for this purpose may bring them to any meeting of the historical society.

The Dan Raymond House Committee will again host a holiday open house in December. This is one of your best opportunities for a visit as the house will be decorated for the season.

Lillian Preiss is preparing a brochure on the Society and the Dan Raymond House for review by the Executive Committee and Trustees. The purpose is to answer questions about the Society and its programs for people who are interested in them.

The January Meeting will be the traditional Show and Tell so keep your eyes open