



DAN RAYMOND HOUSE

SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

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Dear Friends:

This issue is between the usual dates for the newsletter, primarily because of the epistle that went out in the fall about the Society's program to renovate and furnish the Dan Raymond House. From that effort came many donations for which we are grateful. A chandelier for the keeping room and a pencil post bed in the northwest bedroom are among the new furnishings. Both bedrooms have newly plastered ceilings and paint, as does the upper hall. Wooden storms for the entire house have been painted and installed and we are about to add insulation. We have, of course, very far to go and look forward to your continued support in the Dan Raymond House effort.

Meanwhile, the usual activities of the Society continue, and there are many dates which require your attention. Please note them at this time by marking your calendar while the events are still fresh in your memory.

REGULAR MEETINGS (7:30, Dewey Hall unless otherwise noted)

January. Our January program tradition, Show and Tell, highlighted the first meeting of 1981. Milton Barnum returned to the spotlight as Master of Ceremonies for the event, delighting the audience with his knowledge of America past. Honors went to Carl Proper who was able to recognize the greatest number of mystery items.

February 13. The Harpsichord: History, Construction, Styles, Sounds. Cynthia Dixon of Sheffield, a member of the Society, will discuss this early instrument and its place in history. Early music, appropriate to America, will be presented in a brief concert. Ms. Dixon, whose husband Tom is Director of Development at the Berkshire School, has been a musician and teacher of harpsichord and piano for many years. She will bring her own instrument, a two manual Neupert, made in Germany fifteen years ago.

Refreshments: Milton Barnum, James Miller, Carl Proper
(The refreshments alone might make coming out to this meeting worthwhile.)

March 13: Antique Lighting Devices: Development of Fuels and Advances in Lighting. Martin Naumann, Professor of Environmental Science at Simon's Rock College, will discuss lighting in America from colonial times to the present, with particular emphasis on the changes in lamps and the influence of these changes on society. Long a collector of such early lighting devices, Dr. Naumann will illustrate his presentation with some of his collection.

Refreshments: Claire Barlow, Marion Barnum, Mandy Coenen

REGULAR MEETINGS -- (continued)

April 10. Porcelains and Their Restoration. James Sagris, one of fewer than a half dozen porcelain restorers in the country, will discuss his craft. Mr. Sagris, recently commissioned by the government of the United States to restore porcelains of the White House and the State Department, is known to many members of the Society.

Refreshments: Penny Browne, Eleanor Gaskill, Madge Valentine

May 8. Dolls: An Historical Perspective. Elizabeth G. Norwood of Worcester, Massachusetts, has a collection of about 400 dolls. Her interest in dolls stems from a small family collection which was presented to her daughter. Although in need of repair and clothes, the collection began to grow and to be shared with others in the family. Mrs. Norwood, active for many years in various museums and historical societies, is presently involved in the children's book department, 1821-1876, of the American Antiquarian Society, a national library of American history, located near Worcester.

Refreshments: Irene Armstrong, Virginia Siter, Frances Warren

June 12. Annual Meeting. Covered Dish/Pot Luck Supper. Penny Browne and her Committee. More information will follow, but you can expect a lot of the traditional excitement and culinary delight associated with this tradition.

DATES TO REMEMBER --

May 30. 4th Annual Antiques Fair, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

July 12. Old Fashioned Picnic at Dan Raymond House, 4 p.m.

July 25. Annual Auction (To be held if there are enough quality items available)

DAN RAYMOND HOUSE COMMITTEE --

The Committee is planning a display of quilts during the month of April. All quilts in this group were completed by the quilting group which will also have a new pinwheel quilt on display with chances available.

The Committee is looking for collections of items that can be displayed in the Dan Raymond House. If you have something you wish to share, let the group know.