



DAN RAYMOND HOUSE

SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

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Dear Members:

The year rolls right along and the May meeting is soon upon us. While the full schedule of events through June was available in the last Newsletter, here is a brief reminder of the events to come in the immediate future.

May 14. David Rutstein, "Story of America Told in Song," an audio-visual lecture on America's history as seen through sheet music, movies, etc. Mr. Rutstein is a collector of American ephemera.....

June 11. Annual Meeting. This will be a covered dish affair at 6:30 p.m. The meeting and dinner will be a celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Society and there will be a special program to commemorate that event. The Society will provide dessert and beverage and members are currently being contacted about what they should bring. Bring a place setting for yourself. Reservations are necessary through Vera Conklin, Olive Gaylord or Trudy LeGeyt.

OF THINGS PAST -

On Sunday, February 14th, the Milton Barnums and Carl Propers entertained twenty-five people at an Eighteenth Century style breakfast cooked in the fireplace at the Dan Raymond House.

Guests were served in two sessions with food prepared by Milton and Carl using griddles, pans and waffle irons from the 1700's -- it seemed to make the food more tasty. Jim Sagris made his modern kitchen available but it was used mostly for dish-pan duty, the bulk of the food preparation taking place in the Dan Raymond House fireplace.

The first session was the most festive, as the early birds had the opportunity to sing "Happy Birthday" to Virginia Drury. The complete menu consisted of cider, scrambled eggs, bacon, pancakes and waffles with maple syrup, assorted homemade breads, curried fruit and tea or coffee.

The event netted the Dan Raymond House \$105.05. The odd change was an Eighteenth Century tip by Bill Browne.

Maybe we can make this an annual event.

OF THINGS TO COME -

The biggest fund raiser of the year is just ahead! Be sure to set aside Saturday, May 29, for our annual Outdoor Antiques Fair. Volunteers are still needed to assist with this event. Call Carl Proper to sign up if you have not already been contacted.

Milton Barnum has agreed to head once again the annual Tag Sale which this year will be Saturday, July 31. Set aside not only that day but any items you might have to contribute.

At the regular May meeting the membership will be polled to determine the level of interest in the July picnic which traditionally has been held on the grounds of the

OF THINGS TO COME (continued) -

Dan Raymond House. Participation the past few years has waned and the purpose of the question being raised at the May meeting is to determine the feasibility of continuing the July event either in its present or altered form. Plan to come to the May meeting with some fresh ideas. For example, the picnic could be held at a different location such as the covered bridge.

Christopher Coenen has had good fortune in his quest for old photographs of Sheffield but is still in need of pictures taken before 1900 or photos specifically related to events or groups in Sheffield after 1900. Prints of Sheffield or interesting stories about the town or its residents are also welcome.

Material can be brought to the Dan Raymond House on Friday afternoons or to any of the Society's meetings. It will be photographed and the original returned in perfect condition.

Time is running short. Let's give a helping hand to those working on the picture Anniversary Book of Sheffield's 250th.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND INFORMATION -

Those of you who attended the April meeting are aware that the subject of scholarships came up. The Charter of our Society calls for educational endeavors, and scholarships would be one way of partially fulfilling that responsibility. Just what form the scholarship(s) would take is yet to be determined but will be the subject of preliminary study by a group appointed by the Executive Committee of the Society. Members Irene Cranmer, James Miller, Twiggs Myers, Lillian Preiss and Frances Warren will investigate ideas pursuant to this end and make a report and recommendation to the membership in the fall.

Possibilities in this area range from specific grants to individual students to funding educational trips for groups of students to Sturbridge Village, Deerfield or the like.

Members have learned from attending the last few meetings that the Society is the beneficiary of a large segment of the estate of Sally Scanlon. Among items in the bequest are the Scanlon home and a major share of its contents, stocks and cash. The purpose of this gift is for the development of the Dan Raymond House.

The contents of the home will be first made available to the Dan Raymond House Committee and they will choose items suitable for a permanent place in our restoration project, with the balance of the contents disposed of for cash. After careful consideration by the Executive Committee, it was decided to place the house on the market and it is believed that a suitable buyer has been found.

The final disposition and evaluation of the estate is still unsettled. But in the meantime, it is expected that the house will bring \$96,000 and the balance of the estate \$150,000 to \$175,000.