

SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Winter, 1998

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

January 9: ANNUAL WHAT'S IT AND SHOW 'N' TELL: Milton Barnum and Chris Coenen test the wit, wisdom and intellect of participants with an array of objects from throughout the years. Sheffield tax records from as early as 1761 and stories accompanying these records presented by James Miller. 7:30 p.m., Dewey Hall, Sheffield.

February 13: THE CEMETERIES OF SHEFFIELD: Cynthia Tyron Hoogs, researcher and author of Sheffield, Massachusetts Cemetery Inscriptions will provide an illustrated program on the historical, cultural and social history of Sheffield's thirteen cemeteries. (Program rescheduled from November, 1997 due to inclement weather) 7:30 p.m., Dewey Hall, Sheffield.

March 13: 19th CENTURY HISTORIC FAUX FINISHES AND DECORATIVE PAINTING: Barbara M. L. Willner of the Historical Society of Early American Decoration will present an illustrated program on faux painting. (see April 16 workshop) 7:30 p.m., Dewey Hall, Sheffield

March 15: MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY: Paul Harney of Harney & Sons Fine Teas will discuss teas and their origins. Following the lecture, attendees may feast on sumptuous desserts provided by the Mad Hatters and sample several of Mr. Harney's teas. A small exhibit of tea related items will also be on display. 2:00 p.m., Dan Raymond House, Sheffield. *R.S.V.P. to Dorothy Marosy (229-2129) by February 28 if you wish to attend.*

April 10: UNLACING THE VICTORIAN WOMAN: Barbara Meyer Darlin will chat about a life long ago while she slips in to and out of undergarments, corsets and silken gowns worn by a Victorian woman. Costume changes will see Ms. Darlin in a handmade corset, layers of cotton and silk finally emerging as a Victorian lady. 7:30 p.m., Dewey Hall, Sheffield.

April 16: WORKSHOP ON THE ART OF VINEGAR STAINING: Barbara M. L. Willner, member of the Historical Society of Early American Decoration (see March 13 program) will lead participants in the art of vinegar staining. Participants should bring one or two *small wooden* items (small stool, boxes, tray, tea caddy) which should be painted red or bright yellow (semi gloss paint) before the workshop. The instructor will provide other supplies. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Sheffield Library. *To reserve a place,* mail a check in the amount of \$20 payable to Barbara Willner along with your name, address and telephone number to Dorothy Marosy, P.O. Box 608, Sheffield, MA 01257 by March 30. Bring your own lunch and a beverage as the class will run through the noon hour

May 7: WORKSHOP ON SCHERENSCHNITTE: Pamela Dalton, well known on the craft show circuit, demonstrated her talent at the Society's Early American Crafts Festival this past summer. She will teach participants about the art of cutting designs and pictures from paper. One should bring an Exacto knife, a package of #11 blades, a cutting mat, sharpened pencils, Alene's Tacky Glue (or similar rubber cement glue) and a pair of scissors. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Sheffield Library. *To reserve a place,* mail a check in the amount of \$35, payable to Pamela Dalton, along with your name, address and phone number to Dorothy Marosy, P.O. Box 698, Sheffield, MA 01257 by April 22. Bring a lunch and a beverage as the class will run through the noon hour.

May 8: Monthly Meeting - Program To Be Announced Later.
7:30 p.m., Dewey Hall, Sheffield .

May (Date To Be Announced Later): FIELD TRIP TO HISTORIC WETHERSFIELD, CONNECTICUT: This interesting town is the largest historic district in the State of Connecticut and is home to nearly one-hundred and fifty homes built before 1850. Date and details of the trip will follow shortly.

June 12: ANNUAL MEETING AND SURPRISE PROGRAM: Annual reports from officers and committees, election of officers and a potluck supper are the events of the evening. Bring a place setting for yourself and a dish to pass. Dessert and beverage will be provided by the Society.
6:30 p.m., Dewey Hall, Sheffield.

According to a handwritten notation in an old book, Dan Raymond was six feet three inches tall. His name was Dan, not Daniel and he was for many years a man of note and high standing in the town.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

The first six months have been active ones with lively monthly programs, a successful turkey dinner, a Halloween Masquerade Party with costumes not to be believed(!), a terrific field trip to the Lunt Silversmith Factory and Springfield Museums and a wonderful holiday open house at the Society's headquarters with Bob Ledlie's display of miniature lead farm figures.

The Board of Directors has been working diligently on the present and planning for the future. The membership will be asked to endorse the hiring of a professional museum person to assist the Society in fulfilling its mission of educational programs and outreach. Kathie Ness and the Search Committee have been hard at work and will report on progress to date at the February meeting.

The Board has also engaged Johnson/SKD a marketing and public relations firm to assist in two areas. One is to develop a stronger image and identity for the Sheffield Historical Society, and the other, the initial reason for hiring the firm, to develop objectives, strategies and a promotional