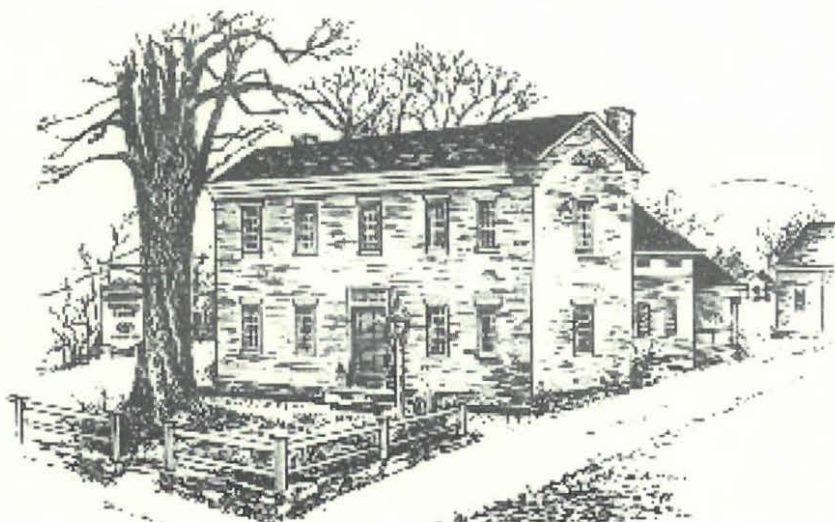


# The Sheffield Historical Society

Spring 2008



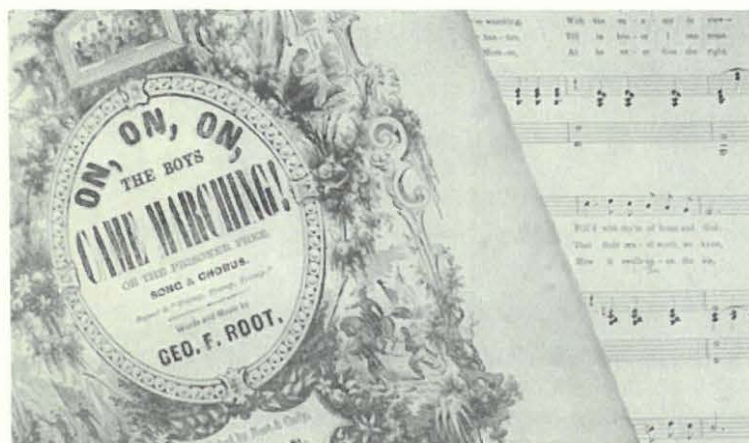
## Society's Archives Enriched with Civil War-Era Ephemera

The Society's Mark Dewey Research Center was the recipient of significant ephemera from members John-Arthur and Trudy Weaver Miller in the form of three original pieces of sheet music by George Frederick Root.

Root, the composer of popular Civil War music, was born in Sheffield on August 30, 1820, and maintained a connection with the town until his death. His high esteem in the community is demonstrated by the clock in the tower of the Congregational Church (Old Parish) that was donated to the town by the Sheffield Chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic in Root's memory. The G.A.R. and the Civil War are analogues to the American Legion and World Wars I and II.

The pieces, *Just before the Battle*, *Mother; Tramp! Tramp! Tramp!* or *Prisoner's Hope*; and *On, On, On, the Boys Come Marching!* also known as *The Prisoner Free* are in fine condition.

Trudy and John-Arthur were also the donors of a signature of George Frederick Root some time ago. These additions to The Society's collection that also contains Root song books, engravings, genealogy, and a biography are the basis of a strong research resource on this important historical figure.



George F. Root sheet music *On, On, On, the Boys Come Marching*  
© 1865 by Root and Cady.

The Society's volunteers are always encouraged by unsolicited donations from the public and want to thank the Millers for their thoughtfulness and generosity.

## Society to Feature an Unusual Folk Art Collection in *Red, White & Blue* exhibit



**Highlights from Mr. Leigh's Collection:**  
Left, *Whimsical Elizabeth Ross or Lady Liberty* figurine holding needle and thread. Above, *Super patriot* waving American flag with banner pledging "Liberty, Justice, and Peace for all."

For other details about the exhibit, see calendar listing on page 3.

*Red, White and Blue; Patriotic Motifs in American Folk Art* honoring the 275th anniversary of Sheffield's founding in 1733 will open at the Old Stone Store, Saturday, May 10. It is a show that will appeal to a rainbow of ages and interests covering the gamut of artistic technique and imagination.

Beginning in the 18th century, democratic American values began to be expressed through folk art by unbounded representations of patriotic symbols such as flags, the liberty cap and pole, the bald eagle and classical depictions of Lady Liberty and George Washington. As interpreted by untrained artisans who made objects largely of utilitarian worth, the new values of democracy and freedom found their way in to American culture through women's handiwork, portraiture, advertising and signage, furniture painting, carving, military material, politics, toys, clothing and ephemera.

The heart of this celebratory exhibit, with selected additions, is from the collection of Steven Leigh of Great Barrington and New York, assembled through decades of collecting. An opening reception will be held Saturday, May 17th from 1 to 4 at which time, Mr. Leigh will be available to answer questions and give informal tours of his collection.

# Fall & Winter Programs Remembered...



The Society held its sixth annual Spirit Walk on October 28 in Center Cemetery. Joanna Jennings, Ricky Bernstein, Catherine Miller, and Dennis Picard (top) starred as various recast residents from Sheffield's past. Not pictured among those who participated are: Sarah Elizabeth Barnes, Dwight Kelly, and Sarah Macy. Catherine Miller played Sophia Curtis (left) an wealthy eccentric socialite and Joanna Jennings played Carrie Smith Lorraine (right) Sheffield's first female photographer.



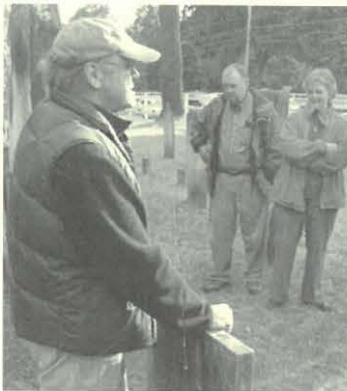
In mid October the Historical Society hosted two 5th grade classes from Undermountain School in Center Cemetery for a school program. Above, two girls work on a grave rubbing of a Sheffield family plot. More of their classmates are pictured on page 7.

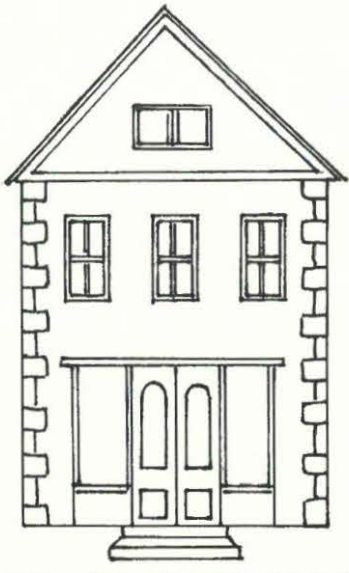


The halls of Dan Raymond House were decked from floor to ceiling to bring in the season at the Holiday Social on December 2. Among the those present were a Loyalist couple from Maple Ave (left). The couple, Jonathan & Lisa Reynolds, are booksellers by occupation but Revolutionary War reenactors by avocation. The Society hopes to involve the Reynolds in the coming years in programming at its 1774 headquarters. Among the decorations and in the Society's collection was a handmade artificial Christmas tree dating from the late 1800s (right).



Above, Gary Levielle and Don Freedman are led by Jim Miller on his October 16 guided walk of Barnard Cemetery, while guest speaker Karin Sprague, a letter carver from Scituate, RI, who joined Jim for the program, looks on. Dennis Sears and Marcia Brolli (left), Joyce Hawkins, Susan & Philip Detjens, Natalie Funk were among those who attended (right).





# Upcoming Events & Exhibition Schedule at the Old Stone Store

Friday, March 14th, 7:30 pm.

## **Colonial Garden Planting & Planning.**

Ruth Green, owner of Green Arts Garden Design and head gardener at the Bidwell House Museum, will give a slide presentation and talk about heritage garden planting schemes.

*The program will be held in Dewey Memorial Hall.*

## **Saturday, April 5th-May 4th. Impressions of the Bidwell House Museum.**

Joanna Jennings, the Society Administrator, will show selections from her two past photographic exhibitions of the Bidwell House Museum. In an eerie sort of tableau narrative, these text and image pairings interpret the past using a contemporary technique.

For more information about the artist and her work, visit [www.joannajennings.com](http://www.joannajennings.com).

*The Old Stone Store exhibit will have an opening reception on Saturday, April 4th, 6-8 pm.*

*There will be an informal gallery talk on Friday, April 18th at 7:30 pm.*

## **Friday, April 11th, 7:30 pm. Roads Less Travelled.**

Bernard A. Drew, *Berkshire Eagle* "Our Berkshires" columnist and Great Barrington Historical Society trustee, will verbally explore a variety of old roads in South County.

*The program will be held in Dewey Memorial Hall.*

## **Saturday, May 10th, 2 pm. Wheeler House Tour.**

The Great Barrington Historical Society will offer members of the Sheffield Historical Society a private tour of their newly restored headquarters—the 1771 Wheeler House!

*The Wheeler House is located on Rte. 7 across from the Big Y/Staples Plaza.*

## **Saturday, May 16th, 6:30 pm. An Unfolding History of the Berkshires.**

David J. McLaughlin will present a book talk & signing. In this unique book 'unfolding' timelines tell the history of our picturesque and culturally diverse Berkshire region.

This program will be presented in conjunction with the Bushnell-Sage Library.

*The program will be held at the Bushnell-Sage Library.*

## **Saturday, May 10th-June 22nd. Red, White & Blue.**

The Society will showcase selections from the collection of Stephen Leigh. All of the objects in this miscellany have one thing in common: they are red, white, and blue! The exhibit will be curated by Jim Miller, the Society archivist and resident historian.

*The Old Stone Store exhibit will have an opening reception on Saturday, May 17th, 1-4 pm.*

## **Friday, June 13th, 7:30 pm. Annual Meeting & The Comic Strip**

Paul Banevicius, Berkshire School Art Department Chair, will present a lecture about his upcoming exhibit in the Old Stone Store on the history of the comic strip.

*The program will be held in Dewey Memorial Hall.*

## **Friday, June 27th-July 13th. Five Friends Art Exhibit.**

*For more information about this exhibit and other upcoming events, visit [www.sheffieldhistory.org](http://www.sheffieldhistory.org).*





## AA 07 Contributors Continued from page 4

Caroline Y. Lindemann  
 Wendy Linscott  
 Reverend John S. Lis  
 Candida Logan  
 Gerald & Selma Lotenberg  
 Susan Lushing,  
*in memory of Wallace Kaminsky*  
 Alice Lustig  
 Bob & Sue MacVeety,  
*in memory of Floyd Woodbeck*  
 Sarah W. Macy  
 Antonio T. & Marian R. Malnati  
 Norman & Barbara Margolis  
 Carole Maghery  
 Barbara E. Martin  
 Shirley Martin  
 Dawn S. Massini,  
*in memory of Henry Massini*  
 Mark H. Massini,  
*in memory of Henry Massini*  
 Wesley McCain &  
 Noreen Storie  
 Charles & Jacqueline McClure  
 Mylan Jaixen &  
 Catherine McNeil  
 Robert D. Mercurio  
 Gary & Jean Miller  
 Jim & Catherine Miller  
 John-Arthur & Trudy Miller, *in honor of Catherine and Jim Miller*  
 George & Sharon Milukas  
 Margaret Mitchell  
 Donald & Roswitha Mott  
 Dan & Ann Moulton  
 Norma Moulton  
 Dorothy Marosy  
 Patrice Mullin  
 C. Twigg Myers,  
*in memory of Arthur C. Chase*  
 MaryEllen J. O'Brien  
 Elisabeth O'Connor  
 Tom & Kathy Orlando  
 Thomas Orlando,  
*in memory of Peggy Orlando*  
 Charlotte A. Owens  
 Ormsbee Gas Co. Inc.  
 Fred & Elaine Panitz  
 Judith Papachristou  
 Wesley Peterson  
 Fred Pomerantz  
 David & Marsha Pottle  
 Ken & Joan Powers,  
*in memory of Freddie Martin*  
 George Raymond & Ida Hastings  
 Joseph H. & Carol F. Reich  
 Alfred M. Richardson  
 Frank Murphy & Deborah Reich  
 Ann M. Riou  
 Muriel Rokos  
 Mrs. T. C. Romaine, Jr., & Family  
 Ben Z. Rose  
 Jessica Roseman  
 Don Freedman & Susan Rothschild  
 George W. & Kate Rowe  
 Peter & Ellen Rowntree  
 Ben Hillman & Amy Rudnick  
 Mary & Bob Safian

Dr. Marcia Savage & Carol Sica  
 Michael Saxton  
 Joanne Day Schmidlin  
 Charles F. & Libby M. Schmidt  
 Norman Schnayer &  
 Joyce Freundlich  
 Bernie & Shellie Schneider  
 William & Judy Schnurr  
 Kenneth & Becky Schopp  
 Charles & Pauline Schumann  
 Gary & Judy Schumer  
 Joseph Schwartzman  
 Dennis Sears & Rene Wood  
 Gilian Shallcross  
 Myron & Marcia Sheinberg  
 Barbara & Jim Shiminski  
 Greig & Christine Siedor  
 Susan Silver  
 E. Bonnie Silvers  
 Evelyn Small,  
*in memory of Jim Small*  
 Elizabeth Smith  
 David A. Smith, Sr.  
 George Smith  
 Nik & Sig Spiegel  
 Walton E. Stevens, *in memory of Capt. Thomas Stevens & Rhoda Callender Stevens*  
 John & Katherine E. Stookey  
 Wanda Styka  
 Howard J. Swanson  
 Stan & Susan Telensky,  
*in memory of Eleanor Griffiths*  
 Thomas & Kathleen Tetro  
 Robert & Rebecca Thomas  
 Ronald & Judith Timm  
 Peter & Doris Traub  
 Al Trocchi  
 Merle & Karen Varney  
 Mary Vaughn  
 Diana & Henry Vollmer, III  
 John & Ada Wall  
 Don & Claire Ward  
 Paula Wardynski  
 Jackie Weaver,  
*in memory of Henry G. Weaver III*  
 David & Barbara West  
 F. Robert Wheeler, Jr.  
 Marion E. Whitman  
 John & Marilyn Wightman  
 Barry & Martha Williamson  
 Elizabeth Wilson  
 Arnold & Beverly Winston  
 Bill & Lynn Wood  
 Don & Nina Worth  
 Ron & Veronica Yaple  
 Eileen Young,  
*in memory of Maury Young*  
 Tom & Susan Young  
 Elissa Williams &  
 Richard Zimmerman  
 Dr. Dorothea Zucker-Franklin

## A Celebration of Traditional Music & Dance

### *The Reveillons!* • April 4-5, 2008 • Sheffield, MA



*The Reveillons!* a traditional Canadian music and dance troupe from Montreal will perform songs and dances based on the amalgam of French, Scotch and Irish styles. *The Reveillons!* philosophy is that "Tradition is not to remake what others did, but to find the spirit in which these things were made."

#### Friday, April 4, 7:30 pm. From Sheffield, England to Sheffield, MA.

Folk music of England- David Berthiaume of Reveillons! • Folk music of Sheffield- "Dewey Hall Folk Concert Series" and the "4th Saturday Contra Series" have been playing for the dances in Sheffield for 29 years • History of Quebec's Traditional Music- The Reveillons! from Montreal will perform songs and dances based on the amalgam of French, Scotch and Irish styles.

*The Friday evening program will take place in Dewey Memorial Hall.*

#### Saturday, April 5, 2-5 pm. Reveillons! Workshops.

Step dance, feet as percussion, instruments, fiddle, jaw harp.

*The Saturday afternoon program will take place in Dewey Memorial Hall.*

#### Saturday, April 5, 7:30 pm. Dance and Show The Reveillons!

*The Saturday evening Dance will be held at the Southern Berkshire Regional School*

#### Strategic Planning Session continued from page 5

III. *Synthesis.* The following six ideas were most popular, four of which were interrelated\*  
 \*\* These six ideas will become the priorities of SHS in the next three years.

- Cataloguing the Dan Raymond House Collection
- Reconnecting with area Teachers/Schools\*
- Teacher Seminars\* and education programs
- Grounds improved and utilized
- Collecting Oral Histories\*\*
- Family Programs\*\*

IV. *Commitment.* Finally, each attendee was asked to personally commit to one of these six areas, the groups formed to become an informal "committee" of sorts. The chairperson of each committee has been bolded.

#### A. Carrie Smith Lorraine Project

*Carrie Smith Lorraine Committee: **Joanna** and Chris*

#### B. Cataloguing the Dan Raymond House Collection

*Collections Committee: **Joanna**, Philip, Ross, Brian and Lois*

#### C. Collecting/Publishing Oral Histories

*Oral History Committee: **Marcia**, John, Joyce, and Jim*

#### D. Reconnect with School/Teachers

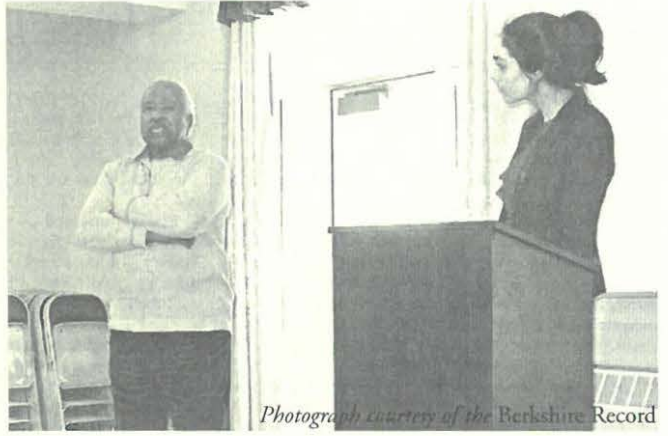
*Education Programming Committee: **Joyce**, Catherine, Dennis, Dorothy, and Harry*

*E. Grounds Utilization (and Beautification) Project. Includes development of programs to utilize the DRH & grounds, and Sheffield Town 275th Anniversary programming.*

*Outreach Committee: **Catherine**, Gillian, Joyce, Joanna and Lois*

V. *Conclusion.* Each committee was asked to set a date for their first meeting and to report back to the board by March 8th, when the board next meets.

# ...Sheffield Historical Society

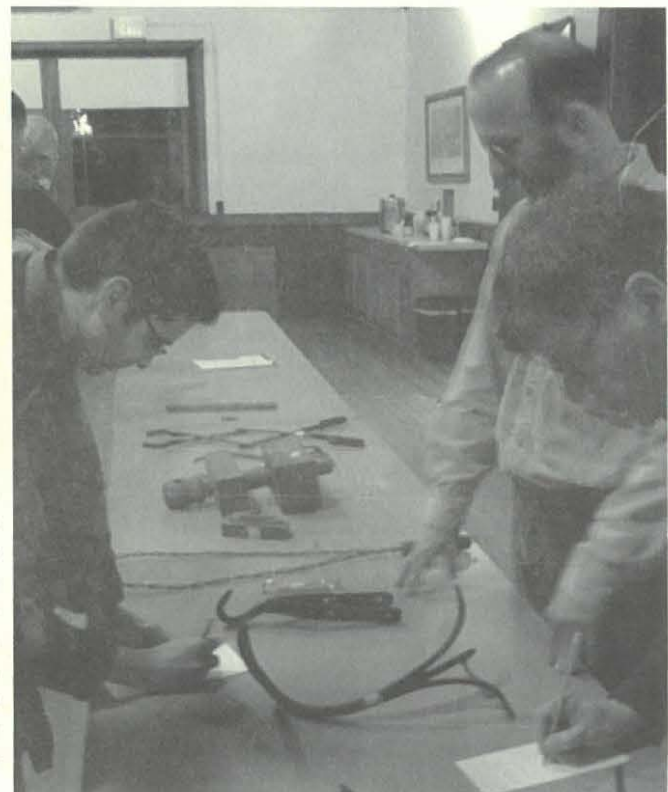


Photograph courtesy of the Berkshire Record

Wray Gunn speaks about local black heritage while Joánna Jennings looks on (above) at the Martin Luther King Day Program which the Society collaborated on in January with the Library and Senior Center. Below, Nancy Race (left) relates her experiences growing up as an African American and John-Arthur Miller (right) honors King with selected choral arrangements.



In October Undermountain School joined the Society for a Spirit Walk and Cemetery tour led by Jim Miller and Joánna Jennings. Above, Catherine Miller stars as Sophia Curtis, a wealthy eccentric socialite while Marcia Brolli (below) talks about life as the wife of Rev. Bradford, the fourth Congregational minister of Old Parish Church. At right top, center and bottom, three more Undermountain students complete grave rubbings.



Karin Sprague of Karin Sprague Stone Carvers (left) joined Society archivist Jim Miller in mid-October for a slide presentation, talk, and cemetery tour. Ms. Sprague spoke about what originally drew her to her craft and the unique artistic process that goes into the creation of each gravemarker. In November, Berkshire Eagle columnist Ruth Bass (center) appeared at the Bushnell-Sage Library at a book talk and signing which the Society co-hosted. Ms. Bass's recent publication, Sarah's Daughter, is a historical-fiction novel about a girl's struggle to raise her siblings after their mother's death in 19th century rural New England. Jon McLaren, John Weinstein, and a friend fill in their guesses at Sheffield Historical Society's annual What's It Night (right) held on January 11. While no one guessed the original purpose of each and every historic tool, some members came close and refreshments were offered to all participants alike!

## 2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marcia Brolli, *President*  
Gillian Hettinger, *Vice President*  
H. Dennis Sears, *Acting Treasurer*  
Harry E. Conklin, *Clerk*

Joyce Hawkins  
Brian Levinsohn  
Philip Detjens  
Mark Ziobro

## MUSEUM STAFF

Joanna Jennings, *Administrator*  
Betty Chapin, *Volunteer Archivist*  
James Miller, *Volunteer Archivist*

*About the Image Opposite: Footstone. This footstone belongs to Theodosia, the first wife of Rev. Adonijah Bidwell who was the first Congregational minister of Tyringham. The grave marker's singular motif depicts a pair of ladies boots positioned heel to toe. This image captured a grand prize at the 2007 Monterey Cultural Council Photography Show.*



## IMPRESSIONS OF THE *Bidwell House Museum* April 4-May 5, 2008

**Opening Reception: April 4, 4-6 pm**  
**Gallery Talk: April 18, 7:30 pm**  
**Old Stone Store Gallery**

## *The Sheffield Historical Society*



Dan Raymond House Museum • Mark Dewey Research Center  
WWW.SHEFFIELDHISTORY.ORG

*The Sheffield Historical Society's mission is to promote a wider understanding of the people and events that preceded us in this area, and to preserve and transmit that heritage to current and future generations.*

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PO Box 747  
Sheffield, MA 01257

Phone: 413-229-2694  
E-mail: [shs@sheffieldhistory.org](mailto:shs@sheffieldhistory.org)

1774 Dan Raymond House is open  
July-October, Tuesday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Or by appointment.

Mark Dewey Research Center is open  
Monday & Friday, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Or by appointment. Email: [mdrc@sheffieldhistory.org](mailto:mdrc@sheffieldhistory.org)

Old Stone Store is open on weekends,  
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Closed January through April.