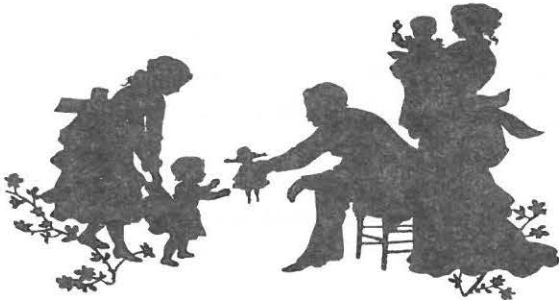


SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2001

NEW JOINT PROGRAMS WITH THE TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS:



Join the Sheffield Historical Society and the Trustees of Reservations as they combine their resources to celebrate the Colonial era in **"Eighteenth Century Day-- A Family Celebration, Saturday, July 7, 2001, from 12 to 5 pm.** The Dan Raymond House and the Colonel Ashley House will be open for tours, demonstrations, and hands-on activities. Spend an hour or two at each site and discover the contributions made by our local founding fathers to the Revolutionary cause.

At the Sheffield Historical Society's 1774 Dan Raymond House, special notice will be taken of forest resources. The versatility of wood for the Revolutionary home will be examined as families view the way cooking utensils, tools, furniture, and buildings were constructed out of local materials. Demonstrations of woodworking techniques will be given by Boyd Hutchison, a skilled craftsman in Shaker and period furniture including Windsor chairs. Dennis Picard will be on hand to operate the Society's recently restored smokehouse, and he will also demonstrate weaving the all-purpose carrying container, the basket. Hands-on

carrying container, the basket. Hands-on activities and games such as hoop-and-stick will also focus on wood.

The Colonel Ashley House, operated by the Trustees of Reservations, will offer programming that focuses on material culture. A "What's-It Tour for Children" will be offered. Hands-on activities include hearing the story of the Sheffield Declaration, working with parchment papers and quill pens, and constructing 18th-century-style fans.

Travel time between the two sites is ten minutes. Admission at each site is half-price for adults, with children and members free.

Join **Mary Wilds**, an author for the Young Adult Series, as she presents a family program on Mumbet, ***The Life and Times of Elizabeth Freeman--The True Story of a Slave that Won her Freedom***, on **Wednesday, July 18, 2001, at 7 pm.** The event will take place at the Bushnell-Sage Library. The event is free.



Mumbet is Sheffield's most renowned 18th-century female. Her story is told throughout the nation due to its impact on the abolition of slavery, especially in Massachusetts. Mary Wilds' recent publication paints a picture of the historic times through which Mumbet lived. Wilds' book makes Mumbet's story readily available to today's youth.



THE 29TH ANNUAL MEETING

Program Committee

The programs committee consisted of Bruce Howden, Doreen Atwood, Dorothy Marosy, Joanne Hurlbut, and Kathie Ness.

The monthly programs were well attended in 2000-2001.

In September, Ronald Jones, president of the Falls Village - Canaan Historical Society, spoke about the history of the iron industry in the tri-state area. This was followed two weeks later by a field trip to Beckley Furnace in Canaan, led by Ed Kirby.

For the October program, Carol Owens, author of *The Berkshire Cottages*, gave a slide show and talk about the general background of the Gilded Age.

In November, Catherine Miller gave a kick-off report on the developments in the renovation plans for the Stone Store.

December saw the Society enjoying another Holiday Stroll and a very successful silent auction of decorated Christmas trees, coordinated by Rene Wood and James Miller.

In January our annual What's-It Night was especially well attended.

In February, Jon Swan, journalist and author, spoke to the Society about the role of African-American soldiers during the Revolutionary War in a program entitled "America's Forgotten Patriots." The March program was canceled due to inclement weather. We have arranged for the speaker to come in the fall of 2001.

In April we enjoyed an evening of home-grown cinema, presented by Gary Leveille -- a silent western, "The Vengeance Trail," filmed in the 1950s, much of it shot in a Sheffield quarry and in other local spots, and featuring area residents. Popcorn and root beer rounded out an evening of fun.

Stephanie Copeland, director of The Mount, was the speaker at the May meeting. She gave a slide program on the history of Edith Wharton and The Mount. This was followed ten days later by a field trip to The Mount and Ventfort Hall in Lenox, with lunch at Lenox 128.

The June meeting will be our regular Annual Meeting, followed by an "ice cream social."

Plans are under way for the upcoming year. The opening program on September 14 will feature Stuart Murray, author of "A Time of War," a book about the role of Berkshire County residents during the Civil War.

As always, we are grateful to the volunteers who help set up the room and who provide the excellent refreshments at the conclusion of the Friday evening meetings.

Respectfully submitted, Kathie Ness

Mark Dewey Research Center

The Mark Dewey Research Center has had a busy and successful year. We are open Monday and Friday afternoons and by appointment. Our volunteers have given 1500 hours working at the Center.

We have worked with a group of students from Mt. Everett who took pictures of Sheffield as it is today, as compared to pictures we have in our collection of Sheffield as it was in the 1920s.

Members of a history class at Berkshire School visited Center Cemetery and each student selected a gravesite to research. We went to Berkshire School and gave them information about the person they had selected and some history of Sheffield.

We have worked with the Sheffield Land Trust and a committee from Our Lady of the Valley who will be using copies of our picture collection.

Our collection has been added to from donations of books, letters, pictures, scrapbooks, and journals. We have also purchased some primary and secondary source material.

In the near future we will be moving our fiche readers and modem downstairs. This will make it better for researchers and the volunteers and provide more working and storage space upstairs.

We have been getting ready for a CAP evaluation, which will be help us in preservation, conservation, and when seeking grants in the future.

The Center helped 190 on-site visitors and answered 25 e-mails and many telephone inquiries this year.

Committee: Doreen Atwood, Betty Dunk, Eleanor Griffiths, James Miller, Archivist, David Prouty, and Pauline Dennis Schumann.

Respectfully submitted, Betty Chapin

Nominating Committee

The Board of Trustees for 2001-2002 is as follows:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
President	Dorothy Marosy	2002
Vice-Pres	Katherine Ness	2002
Clerk	Harry Conklin	2003
Treasurer*	Catherine Miller	2004
Trustee*	Wray Gunn	2003
Trustee	Doreen Atwood	2003
Trustee	Marilyn Wightman	2002
Trustee	James Miller	2003
Trustee*	Rene Wood	2003

(*elected 6/8/01)

Road Cleanup Report

Our Society continued its participation in the MA Highway Department "Adopt-a-Highway" Program. A hardy group of our members assembled at seven o'clock on several mornings to keep our assigned miles on Route 7 tidy and free of litter.

Many thanks to that clean-up committee, which included: Catherine and Jim Miller, Rene Wood and Dennis Sears, Marilyn and John Wightman, Kathy Orlando, Janny VanHouwelingen, Harry Conklin, Fred Gordon, Sally Kelly, Kathie Ness, Tom Garrett, Virginia Drury, (and myself, Nancy Elliott).

Nancy Elliott

Director's Report

At the conclusion of my second year here in Sheffield, I am happy to report that many of the statements I made in my report last year are still true. I can always find volunteers to help me with the varied tasks that need doing, even when those tasks involve contact with creepy crawly things, the animal web kingdom, and tasks that are necessary but unglamorous. This year's spring-cleaning was a monumental job! The stalwart crew was sent into every corner of every building of the

Treasurer's Report

Income July 2000--June 2001

OPERATING FUND

Memberships	\$2,298
Donations	14,945
Admissions	491
Publications	1,335
Bank Interest	102
Transfer from Development	98,500

EDUCATION FUND

Field Trips/Wkshp	862
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SPECIAL EVENTS

Grants/sponsors	8,806
Admissions	2,956
Food	1,664
Souvenirs	2,214

MARK DEWEY RC

Donation	714
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ACCESSIONS FUND

Deaccessions	6,567
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TOTAL: \$141,454

Expenses July 2000--June 2001

OPERATING FUND

Grounds Care	\$2,866
Building Upkeep	4,626
Capital Building	6,000
Utilities	5,700
Housekeeping	450
Printed Supplies	850
Office Supplies	1,600
Postage	900
Meeting Expense	250
Insurance	4,762
Security	204
Accounting/Legal	1,500
Membership Fees	677
Books, Journals	25
Salary of Director	30,000
Fed & St Taxes	3,300
Seminars	454

EDUCATION FUND

Field Trip/Wkshp	775
Scholarship	0

SPECIAL EVENTS

Publicity	\$2,876
Logistics	3,390
Food	632
Souvenirs	1,083
Entertainment	824

MARK DEWEY RC

Printed Supplies	38
Office Supplies	1,020
Reference " "	1,361
Conservation	362

ACCESSIONS

Preservation of Collections	425
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STONE STORE

Fees/Taxes	5,503
Construction	40,563

TOTAL: \$123,016

Respectfully submitted,
Carl L. Proper, Treasurer

Development Fund

The Trustees upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee engaged PaineWebber to manage the Society's portfolio. The funds were invested late in the summer in five managed accounts--Brandes Partners, Groupama, Kayne-Anderson and Wentworth, and a bond fund--all in accordance with the Investment Policy that was developed. Three of the managed funds and the bond fund performed well in spite of the downswing in the market. The fourth fund had a less successful year but is beginning to turn around. As of May 21, 2001, the investment account totaled about \$825,000. The Finance Committee continues to monitor the funds and meets periodically throughout the year with the investment advisor from PaineWebber to make certain the monies are managed in accordance with the policies established by the Society. Since the Society is dependent upon earnings from the portfolio for its operation, it is important that prudent management is practiced.

Catherine Miller

Society's holdings--attics, basements, collections rooms, and all the storage areas. I waited two years (the buildings waited decades) to clean out some of those areas, so my heartfelt thanks go out to the crew! Doreen Atwood and Rene Wood readied the Dan Raymond House for visitors. Catherine Miller and Jim Miller helped with the non-collections areas. Jim gets the Transfer Station award for all the runs he made to that facility. Julie Otty, the Society's new housekeeper, attacked the bugs in all the worst places with great vigor. President Marosy readied the collections storage areas. The transformation is wonderful--stop in and check things out. For those of you who missed this year's cleaning--we will do it again next year. Just asks anyone involved how satisfied they were with the results. The spirit of volunteerism by these and other Society volunteers continues to amaze my colleagues.

In addition to the regular events schedule of monthly meetings and programs such as the cemetery walk, a number of new outreach programs occurred. Society volunteers made these events a huge success. The Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce "After Business Meeting" brought 45 people on-site. Many were unfamiliar with our institution when they came, but they walked away impressed by what we have to offer. The Society participated in this year's celebration of *Berkshires Week*. A press conference was held at The Mount with all participating organizations of the Cultural Alliance, of which we are now a participating member. As a part of the conference, a Civil War letter from our MDRC collection was dramatically read. The room grew silent as this document was made alive for the audience. In general, press coverage for the Society for the year has been strong.

The Carrie Smith Lorraine exhibition has simultaneously been on view at the Mason Library in Great Barrington and the Mt. Everett High School in Sheffield. Comments from both sites have been positive and the audiences are appreciative of our collections breadth; hundreds of people have viewed the

exhibition at these sites. All these factors are raising the Society's profile in the community.

This past year also brought a significant rise in the number of people attending programs and visiting the site. The visitors to the site have come in groups, such as the Berkshire Choral Festival, or as individuals. The Place in Time program for elementary students remains popular and this past year saw the first school group attend a new cemetery program. The students learned about cemetery architecture, had first-person encounters with past Sheffield residents, and made grave rubbings.

The scope of activity for the year, which included the restoration and celebration of the Smokehouse along with the other previously mentioned events, is impressive. It has impressed the agencies to which we have applied for grants--our success rate is remarkable. I cannot thank all of you enough for your help and support. Let's keep this momentum up! I look forward to another year at the Society, a place that some are now calling a hidden gem in the Southern Berkshires.

Joanne Hurlbut

President's Remarks

During this first year of my term as president, I got my feet wet. Next year I will take the plunge.

It was deemed necessary by the Trustees to cancel the Artisan's Festival this year. Although it was a success in many ways, it did not turn a profit.

Last fall the Smokehouse was moved from the Christ Church property to the Historical Society campus. As a result of the generosity of a number of donors, it was restored and used for the first time in May, and is now part of the Place in Time program.

As a result of receiving the IMLS grant, we were visited by a consultant on June 6 & 7. In anticipation of this on-site assessment, much cleaning and reorganizing was done. We were congratulated on the fine job we are doing in preserving our collections. However, improvements need to be made in storage of artifacts, controlling the environment, safety procedures, and more efficient use of space, to list just a few. My thanks to all who worked so hard.

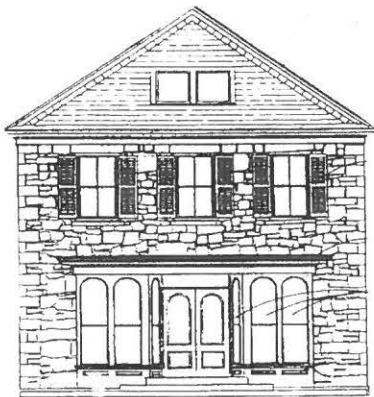
Our monthly meetings, Cemetery Walk, and Holiday Stroll continue to draw an audience from neighboring communities, as well as Sheffield.

Through Joanne's efforts, the Society has been the recipient of approximately \$9,000 in grants this year.

I want to thank Joanne and the Trustees for supporting me and all our activities. They are a hands-on board, and always respond when help is needed. Volunteers from the general membership continue to contribute their time, and I look forward to working with you next year.

Dorothy Marosy

Stone Store Update

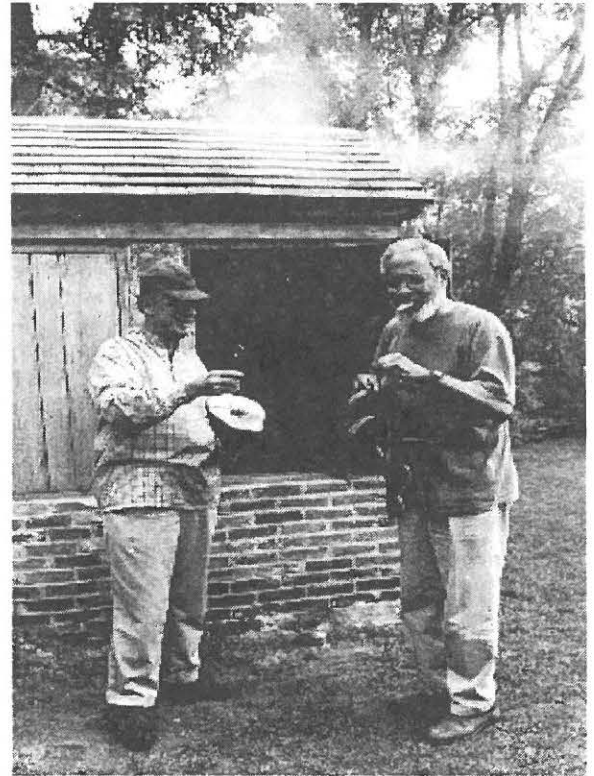


Restoration work on the Stone Store began this spring. Crews working on the interior have removed all materials to the point where the stone walls are now fully visible. Structural support work and work on the basement is also in progress. The "quiet phase" of the fundraising campaign is now in full swing. As a part of this effort, a brochure highlighting the Store's history has been created and is available at the Society office.

Stone Store Raffle

Grace Wallace Brown has made possible a fundraising project for the Stone Store. Through her efforts, artist Regi Klein has provided the Society with one of her paintings at a significantly reduced rate. The artwork features Main Street in Sheffield, including the Stone Store and the Dan Raymond House.

The Society is now raffling off this artwork for \$10 a ticket; her art normally sells at \$1,000 per painting. Support the Society and contemporary artists by buying one, two, or even ten tickets! The drawing will take place at this year's Holiday Stroll. Tickets can be obtained at the Society office.



There's nothing quite like that home smoked flavor!

James Miller and John James at the Smokehouse Opening Celebration. Photo: Kathy Orlando

Scholars' Corner

This year's recipient of the Sheffield Historical Society Scholarship is Dylan Moulton. He will attend Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA, where he will pursue a degree in political science.

Grant Awards

The Sheffield Historical Society has recently been the recipient of three grant awards, for our programming, building restoration, and collections preservation efforts.

The Sheffield Cultural Council has for the third consecutive year awarded a grant to the Society for its "Place in Time" program for elementary students. This year's award is for \$100. The continued support of the Council enables the Society to purchase equipment for enhancing the student's on-site visits. The Sheffield Cultural Council is a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

The Lenox Garden Club awarded the Society a grant of \$2,500 in order to create a landscape plan for the Stone Store. The plan will be implemented in the open space, behind the Stone Store, adjacent to the Old Parish Church grounds, and in front of the Town Hall. The garden design will include varied plantings and benches in order to create a public space for residents and visitors alike to relax and enjoy the heart of Sheffield. Jeffrey Steele of Ashley Falls Nursery is serving as the garden consultant for this project. Once the major phases of construction at the Stone Store are completed, the garden will be installed.

Each year, the Lenox Garden Club makes awards to local organizations undertaking landscape projects such as the Society. Funding for these awards comes from the Lenox Garden Club's annual Garden and House tour. This year's tour will take place on Saturday, July 14th.

The Society is a recipient of the 2001 Conservation Assessment Program Grant (CAP). The Society was selected as one of 147 organizations across the nation to receive this award, which is a building block in collections management and serves as a cornerstone for future collections/preservation grant applications. *CAP supports a two-day visit by conservation professional that reviews the overall condition of the museum's collection, the physical storage and exhibitions conditions, and the collection practices, among other factors. The assessment helps museums establish goals so that their holdings can be preserved and made available to the public for years to come.*

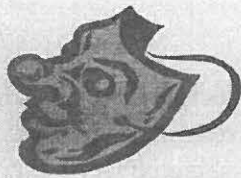
The Historical Society's grant award was \$6,370; these funds will be used to bring CAP consultants to the site. The Society was fortunate to have two well-known experts in their fields agree to work with us on this assessment. Lori K. van Handel of Heritage Conservation Services of Williamstown, the collections reviewer, completed her two-day site evaluation last week. Her formal written report on the present collections conditions and suggestions for future action will be received by the Society within the month. There is room for improvement in storage and environment, but the overall analysis of the job the Society is doing to care for its collection was highly positive. Hats off to the Society members who have collected, organized, and maintained this collection over the years! The building's assessor, Andrea M. Gilmore of Building Conservation Associates Inc. from Dedham, MA, will be here in September. The Society seeks to join the over 95% of organizations that have received these awards and then have gone on to fulfill a majority of the recommendations.

The Society has also been selected for inclusion in an IMLS survey. The Center for Organizational Excellence is conducting a "Technology Survey for Libraries and Museums" for IMLS. The information gathered will be presented to Congress and also used by other associations to help determine future plans, especially in the field of digitization.



I N S T I T U T E o f M U S E U M
a n d L I B R A R Y S E R V I C E S

The Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency that fosters innovation, leadership and a lifetime of learning, supports the Sheffield Historical Society.



Are you willing to show that hidden side of your personality? The Society is in search of first-person characters for two upcoming events.

The Massachusetts Turnpike Authority has awarded a grant to the Berkshire Visitors Bureau to highlight local organizations. We will present the Society to the public at the Lee tourism center on Sunday, October 7, from 11 am to 2 pm. Those who have acted for us in the last two cemetery walks may reprise their roles. New roles such as the Raymond family will debut. Those who will portray a character in the cemetery walk this fall can use this as a dress rehearsal. The Society will receive a significant contribution for this effort. JOIN US!

The Cemetery Walk will take place on Saturday, October 13, from 5 to 7 pm. We need those modern spirits to help us interpret the past.

Call the Office at 229-2694 to sign-up for a role.

Wish List

If you have any of the following objects in good condition, but you no longer need the item, consider donating it to SHS. Monetary contributions to be used in purchasing the items are also welcome.

Cotton sheets, flashlights, scissors, floor lights, screw gun, glue & staple guns, WWI & WWII info, old scrapbooks

Barrington Stage Company Complimentary Tickets Available

Society members are invited to the Barrington Stages' opening production *On The Twentieth Century*, a Tony award winning musical comedy. Tickets are available on a first come basis for the Friday, June 22, 8 pm show or the Sunday, June 24, 5 pm performance. Call their box office at 528-8888.

Membership renewal reminder:

A mailer is enclosed for those whose membership is past due.

Sheffield Historical Society
P.O. Box 747
Sheffield, MA

Don't Miss These!
Don't Miss These!

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY DAY--JULY 7

MUMBET FAMILY PROGRAM--JULY 18