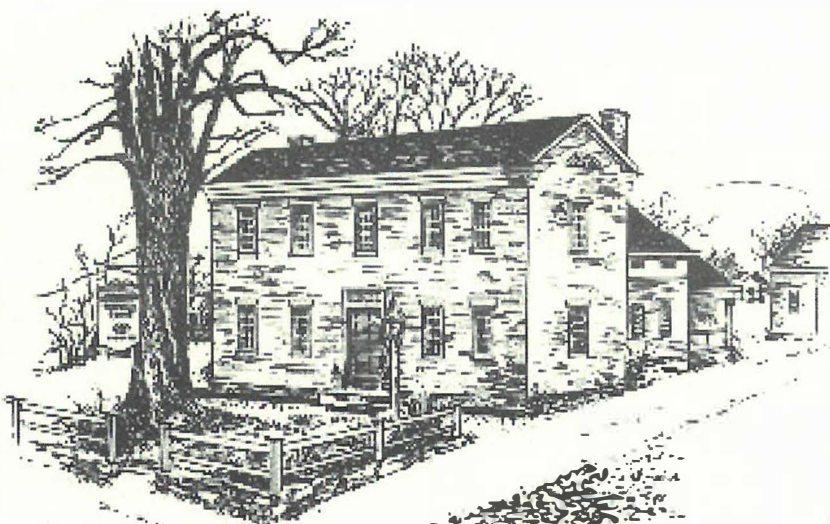
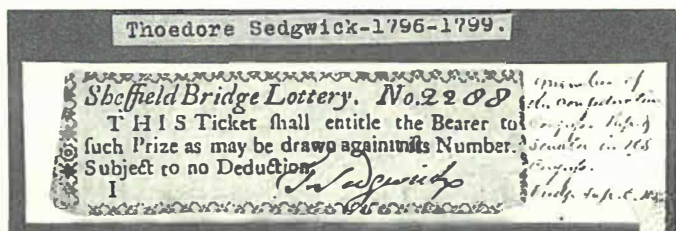


The Sheffield Historical Society

Summer 2007



Early Sheffield Lottery Ticket Resurfaces



This document is a facsimile of a late 18th century Sheffield Bridge Lottery ticket signed by Sheffield's own Theodore Sedgwick. The original recently came up for auction on e-Bay; unfortunately, the Society was out-bid.

An item offered for sale on e-Bay illuminated a heretofore unknown aspect of Sheffield's internal improvement program during its early years. The construction of bridges and roads, a persistent, heavy drain on town finances, was remedied, in part, through a bridge lottery in the late 18th century. Its purpose was to raise money for their construction and maintenance.

The history of lotteries in America goes back to the Virginia Company in 1612 when one was held to provide funds for colonization of that future state. They continued to be popular in the 1700's with legislatures authorizing lotteries for every type of public improvement from building churches and colleges to the construction of roads and bridges.

The e-Bay item, a ticket for SHEFFIELD BRIDGE LOTTERY No. 2288, (shown here) was signed by Sheffield's Theodore Sedgwick, a member of the Confederation Congress, U.S. Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and later Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court.

While the Society bid on the ticket, it dropped out of the bidding at \$200. The same item for a Connecticut bridge lottery the same day went for \$375. We will have to be satisfied with a color copy printed from e-Bay, perfectly fine for research but not so great for exhibit.

—James Miller, MDRC

Thank you. We thank our friends for gifts both great and small.

- To those who have given to the Annual Appeal / Membership Drive—much appreciation for the work you enable us to do—both in enhancing the physical plant, supporting our research with new equipment in the office and the research center, and encouraging us to continue. The list will be published in the fall.

- To Rob Robins, Madeleine and Clem, who gave generously from the barn this past spring. Among the items donated were a hand-drawn map of farm land of Henry and William Boardman, 1849, a missionary membership certificate for M. Elizabeth Sage, 1889, a hay cradle, wooden scythe, and a hay hook with mechanism.

- To Steve Phillips for painting the front windows of the Stone Store as a gift.

- To Gretta Willig of Gretta's Market for donating the coffee for the opening exhibit at the Stone Store this spring.

Dear Members and Friends of SHS,

So many good things are happening: a new administrator in the office, fresh paint to come on all the buildings, increased donations to the Annual Appeal/Membership drive, an opening up of the Society grounds to the new parking area for Sheffield center, and great exhibits in the Stone Store.

Our fresh face is Joanna Jennings, a photographer and graphic artist as well as an historic house expert. We are sharing her with the Bidwell House where she has been a docent, freshened up their newsletter and designed their other print work, created exhibits, planned school programs, and done work with their collections.

She met several of our members at the annual meeting, but please stop by at the Dan Raymond House Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday and introduce yourselves. You might enjoy the new tour of the Dan Raymond House and Carriage Barn.

The painting of the Mark Dewey Research Center and Stone Store has been wonderfully done by Steve Phillips, our painting contractor. He will do the Dan Raymond House next, and then the other buildings. We are facing major work on the foundation of the Carriage Barn, but the Board agreed to go ahead with the painting.

The exhibit season, under the guidance of Jim Miller, had a terrific start with Tom Ingersoll and the Sheffield Tree Project and Chris Covey and Mt. Everett giving an overview of Sheffield Trees: Past, Present, and Future. It continues with the Five Friends art exhibit. The highlight of the summer is the 2-floor display of antique wicker by Kathy and Tom Tetro of Corner House Antiques, who are presenting their personal collection of unusual and remarkable antique wicker furniture from July 7-August 12.

And of course, we will again hold our Summer Feast-the roast beef, pork, and turkey dinner (formerly the Pigge Roast) and craft fair on August 25.

See you in Sheffield,

Marcia Brolli

Please remember to join us for our summer programs and events!

Annual Reports

The Mark Dewey Research Center

The Mark Dewey Research Center (MDRC) of the Society is a depository on the history of the tri-state area with primary focus on Sheffield. Its volunteers, Betty Chapin, Jim Miller and David Prouty, research and answer inquiries received by e-mail at mdrc@sheffieldhistory.org, telephone at 229-3682, snail mail at Box 747, Sheffield, and drop-ins during regular hours, 1:30 to 4:00 Friday and Monday. (If a volunteer is available, special appointments can also be made.)

Another important function of the Center is collecting material on the town's history. The principal source for this project is through the inquiries that are fielded by the volunteers. As part of the regular operating procedure, a request is made for a copy of the client's final work. This is what makes our collection absolutely unique since no other institution contains so many of these rich depositories of local Sheffield history and genealogy.

The most significant forward movement this year came through the financial generosity of an anonymous donor that allowed the MDRC to subscribe to on-line data bases, digitized books and manuscripts, adding significantly to its research capabilities. One is Ancestry.com of RootsWeb which offers vast resources of public and private records nationwide. Secondly, with primary emphasis on New England and the middle states, the Center also subscribes on-line to the holdings of Godfrey Memorial Library in Middletown, CT.

The volunteers can assist you in your research if you wish, or you made do your own on site. All of the Center's services are free except for a modest charge for copies.

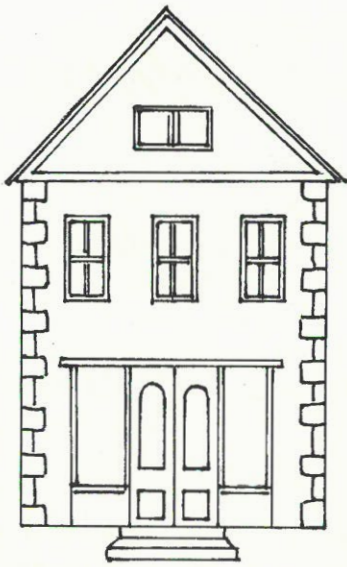
Jim Miller, Archivist

Treasurer's Comments

In the Treasurer's opinion, the finances of the Society are sound and improved as we approach the end of the Fiscal Year. We can measure our success through several metrics:

1. Our gross income, (excludes withdrawal from our endowment), will be up around 34%. This primarily due to our every other year Silent Auction/Tag Sale.
2. Our endowment withdrawal will be well under our 4% limit.
3. Our portfolio has grown around 13% net after withdrawal.
4. Our annual appeal is running up about 10% over last year.
5. We've spent around \$10,000 on building maintenance, primarily in

Annual Reports Continued on Page 5



Upcoming 2007 Events & Exhibition Schedule at the Old Stone Store

July 7-August 12. **American Antique Wicker.**

Kathy and Tom Tetro of Corner House Antiques are exhibiting on both floors of the Stone Store. The wicker exhibit will feature their private collection including some unique items from the turn of the last century, 1890-1920.

July 21, 11 am. John Wall, an authority on Wakefield wicker, will present an overview of the life of Cyrus Wakefield, noted founder of American wicker. The presentation will be held in the Old Parish Fellowship Rooms.

July 21, 1-4pm. Charlie Flint, appraiser & antiques dealer, owner of Charles Flint Antiques in Lenox, MA, will hold an "American Roadshow" antiques appraisal session. The event will take place in the Old Parish Fellowship Rooms.

August 18-September 3. Lori and Ernie Barker, artists from Goshen, CT, will exhibit their mixed media creations.

September 8-October 30. **Fire and Light:** American hearth cooking and home lighting devices to 1860.

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, August 25. **Annual Dinner & Craft Fair**
at the American Legion Hall on Rte. 7.

Saturday, September 15. John Sedgwick, author of *In My Blood*, will present a book talk & signing in conjunction with the Bushnell Sage Library/

Saturday, October 13. **Sheffield Tombstone Art & Cemetery Tour.** Cemetery talk featuring the work of artist Karin Sprague followed by the annual walk led by Jim Miller.

Sat., November 10. Ruth Bass, author of *Sarah's Daughter*, will present a book talk & signing in conjunction with the Bushnell Sage Library.

Remembering the Society's History...

At a Strategic Planning Conference this winter several members met to write a mission statement. Throughout the past 35 years, the Society's milestones have been many. It is vital to our mission's objective to remain in touch with our roots, particularly in Sheffield, the oldest town in Berkshire county, where to remember our history is never far from remembering who we are.

1972

(August) Society founded by group of 16 local residents officers elected (Lillian Preiss, President) monthly programs (September - June) open to public established

1973

Milton Barnum & Edward Warren purchase Dan Raymond House to hold until Society is able to raise \$25,000 to take ownership • Society sponsors 2 day event to mark 200th Anniversary of signing of Sheffield Declaration of Independence

1974

Warren & Macchi, Inc. donate Parker L. Hall Law Office • Bicentennial Grant (\$2,700) awarded for relocation and restoration

1975

Society takes ownership of Dan Raymond House

1978

First Annual Antiques Flea Market on Massini's field • Dan Raymond House library established

1979

Assisted with fund raising for restoration of Upper Covered Bridge • First annual turkey dinner with all the fixings

1980

Developed comprehensive report on furnishing Dan Raymond House

1983

Society beneficiary of \$300,000 from estate of Sally Scanlon • Dan Raymond House restoration begun in earnest • Helped organize and participated in the 250th Anniversary activities for Town of Sheffield • First Annual Covered Bridge Ramble (runners and walkers) • Scholarship established for Mt. Everett senior

1984

Society acquires a Post Office box (#747)

1985

Carriage House/Barn renovated • Outdoor flea market changed to upscale indoor antiques show at Berkshire School; professional manager engaged to run three day show • Received deaccessioned cast iron toys from Smithsonian Institution • Williamstown Regional Art Conservatory conducted site survey of manuscripts, works of art and printed materials • Federation of Historical Services surveyed the DRH Museum • Consultant (free) from Massachusetts Council on Arts and Humanities suggested multiple-period rooms for DRH

1986

Greg Farmer of New England Historical Services, Inc. prepared a narrative history of the DRH • Society purchased the Mark Dewey Hat Shop, now MDRC

1988

Ten Year Goals Committee established; decision to establish the Mark Dewey Center for historical and genealogical research in the hatter's shop

1990

Opening of Mark Dewey Research Center

1998

Search Committee established to hire first professional director of Society; Dennis Picard hired • First Annual Artisans Festival (Early American Crafts Festival) • First Spirits of Sheffield Cemetery Program • Place in Time Program for elementary school children established • Recreation of march of General Ashley's troops (Shay's Rebellion) • Carriage House tool museum established

1999

Picard resigned; Search Committee established to seek new director • Joanne Hurlbut named second director of Society • Society acquired Old Stone Store; fund raising program to restore begun

2000

Carrie Smith Lorraine photographic exhibit opened • First Festival of Trees established

2001

19th Century Smokehouse relocated and restored

2002

Society published *Early Life in Sheffield* by James R. Miller • First garden party initiated • Stone Store renovation completed and available for exhibits • NEH grant (\$5,000) received

2003

Society published *Spend a Summer in Sheffield & Environs* by Bernard Drew • Gift shop in Old Stone store opened • Five year plan for future undertaken

2004

First Silent Auction and Tag Sale • Scholar in Residence Program established • Preservation Assistance Grant from National Endowment for the Humanities

2005

Native American Heritage Day

2006

Symposium: *If They Close the Door on You, Go in the Window*

2007

J. Hurlbut resigned; Society begins planning for future

Compiled by Catherine Miller

long overdue painting. We see our way clear to finish this major program over the next fiscal year.

Many thanks to all of the donors of time, treasure, and talent who have made this possible over many years and in some cases past their lifetimes through the bequests and donations that have built our endowment.

H. Dennis Sears, Treasurer

Report on the Society's Grants

The Sheffield Historical Society wishes to acknowledge, and give its sincere thanks for, the Grants received during 2006-07 fiscal year from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, in the amount of \$2500, and the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, in the amount of \$500.

The Massachusetts Cultural Council is a state agency in Boston governed by a Board of private citizens appointed by the Governor representing various regions of the State. The mission of the Council is to promote the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences for all Massachusetts residents. This Grant provided badly needed funds for various building maintenance projects, primarily painting, pertaining to the Society's two main buildings, and additionally, was used to send our Director to attend the New England Museum Association's Annual Conference.

The Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation is a nonprofit organization headquartered in Great Barrington, MA, serving the Berkshires and four adjoining counties. Its mission is to improve the quality of life in the Berkshire Taconic region through philanthropy. Funds received were used to install fire and security alarm systems and door locks.

Philip Detjens, Finance Committee

Notes from the Programming Committee

Sheffield Historical Society fall & winter events will include two book signings — one with John Sedgwick, author of *In My Blood*, and one with Ruth Bass, author of *Sarah's Daughter*. Both programs are being presented in conjunction with the Bushnell Sage Library and will be held at the library.

A cemetery talk in October will feature the work of artist Karin Sprague followed by the annual walk led by Jim Miller. The schedule continues this winter with our annual holiday social and the January "What's It?" featuring Chris Coenen and others.

Spring 2008 events may include a vintage wedding exhibit and a lecture on New England stonewalls by Robert Thorson.

Joyce Hawkins, Programming Committee

Greetings Members and Friends!

The Annual Meeting was well attended and I have met many of you already. For those of you who could not make it, please consider stopping by the office in back of the Dan Raymond House. I am here Tuesday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Aside from attending to administrative matters and playing clerical catch-up, in my first weeks I have spent some time familiarizing myself with the history of the oldest town in Berkshire County. Visits to historic memorials and landmarks — points of interest that generally tend to become prosaic to the local resident — have taken on another dimension since I have started in on my new role. I look forward to finding venues to share my impressions of Sheffield's historic legacy and heritage.

My appreciation and enthusiasm could find expression in many ways in the future from an exhibit which I might organize and curate, a revitalized children's program, grants to research and pursue, to the preservation of the Society's collection and its digital archive. But, most tangibly, right now for me would be the focus of the story we tell at the Dan Raymond House.

I have already spent some time among the collection and with the docent training materials that Dennis Picard had first established during his term. As I've been learning the history, I wonder if there are any volunteers out there who would be interested in leading a tour of the Dan Raymond House. In reviewing the guest books from the past years I can see that we don't get a huge amount of traffic, but I am confident that we could change that with some fresh interest and a fresh approach. This is one of my strengths, and I would be happy to train some new docents come mid-July.

With the new position come many responsibilities and challenges. Among them is the design and ongoing maintenance of the Society's website. As many of you have probably noticed, we could really use a face-lift! The Society has purchased a copy of Adobe Dreamweaver and I am eager to tackle this project. Is there anyone out there with some web design experience or interest who might like to collaborate with me?

The door is always open here and all are welcome.

*Thank you,
Joanna Jennings,
Your new Administrator*

Dessert Bakers- Join Us for Pigge Roast!

Call Sheffield Historical Society

(413) 229-2694

HISTORICAL SOCIETY WISH LIST:

One contemporary flush toilet

2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marcia Brolli, *President*

Gillian Hettinger, *Vice President*

H. Dennis Sears, *Acting Treasurer*

Harry E. Conklin, *Clerk*

Joyce Hawkins

Brian Levinsohn

Sarah Macy

Philip Detjens

Mark Ziobro

MUSEUM STAFF

Introducing...

Joanna Jennings, *Administrator*

FORMERLY THE PIGGE ROAST

with Master Roaster Scott Ryan

& CRAFT FAIRE

Saturday, August 25, 2007



American Legion Hall, SHEFFIELD

Craft Faire from 10:00 til 4:00

Dessert contest at 3:00

Serving from 4:00 until 6:30

Roasting beef, chicken & pork

TAKE-OUT AVAILABLE

Adults \$17 (\$15 pre-paid), Children \$8

Children under 8 free

Sponsored by the Sheffield Historical Society

CALL (413)229-2694 FOR RESERVATIONS

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.



*The
Sheffield
Historical Society*

Dan Raymond House Museum • Mark Dewey Research Center

WWW.SHEFFIELDHISTORY.ORG

Phone: 413-229-2694
E-mail: 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. E-mail: 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.