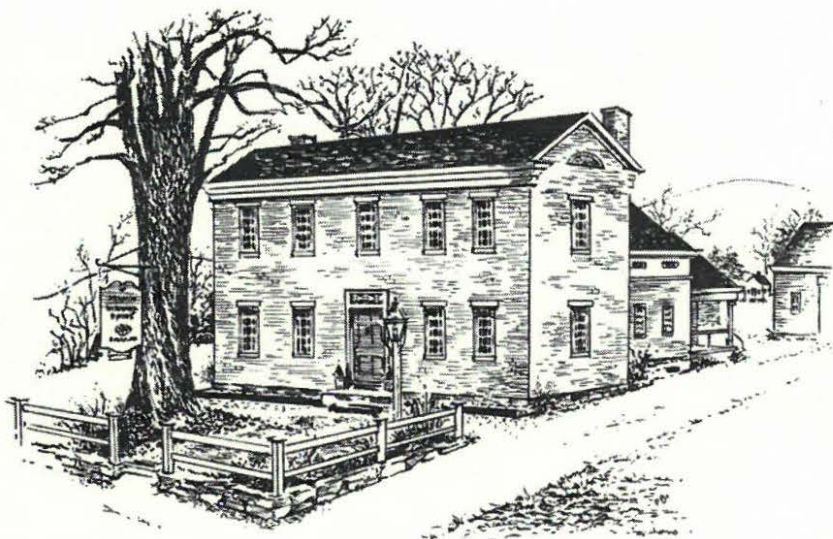


The Sheffield Historical Society

Summer 2010



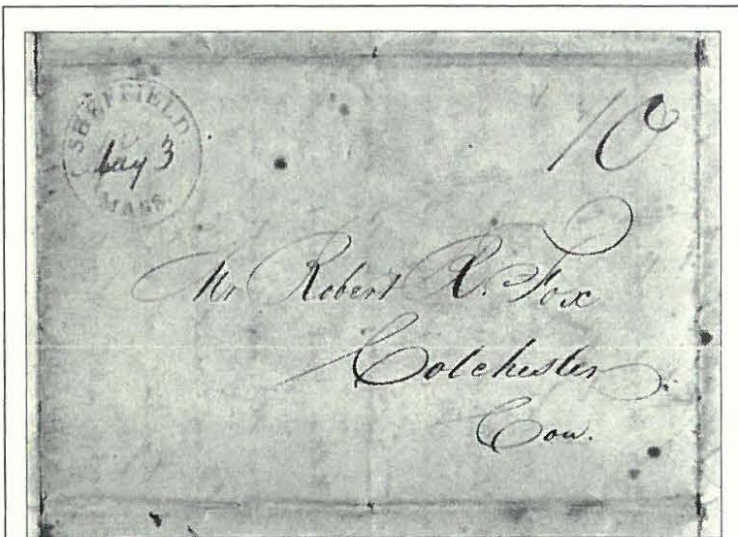
Annual Meeting Program Inspired by Letter Writing Exhibits

Before Facebook, before Twitter, before texting, we wrote letters. Much of the history of our culture and civilization is known from the collected personal letters of individuals. Some writers were famously prolific, such as Abigail Adams and, here in the Berkshires, the Sedgwicks. Others, like the Little family in Sheffield, were ordinary citizens reporting on their daily lives to friends and relatives.

This spring and summer the Sheffield Historical Society will be celebrating letter writing in two exhibits and in our June program. On May 1st through October 31st the Dan Raymond House will feature *The Little Family and 19th Century Correspondence*, a display of the Little letters written from 1807 until 1837, tied to a collection of period antiques provided by participating Sheffield antiques dealers, private collections, Berkshire Historical Society and The Mount. On June 12 to July 11, the Stone Store will feature *ABC's of Letter Writing: The History and Art of 19th Century Correspondence*, related to the exhibit at the Dan Raymond House. In conjunction with these exhibits, the Society's June 11th program will present Susan Bachelder, speaking on the history and art of letter writing and calligraphy.

Susan Bachelder, a resident of Egremont, was educated in New England private schools, attended the University of Kansas as a Fine Art major before moving to New York City where she studied at the Art Student's League with Martin Oberstein, a calligrapher on the staff of Tiffany and Co., and began a 30-year career in advertising and international film production. Upon retiring to Egremont, she attended Bard College at Simon's Rock and earned her magna cum laude Classics degree in 2003. Given the average age of Simon's Rock students, she is certain she was the oldest graduate that year.

Susan is a member of the Medieval Academy of America, The Dante Society and continues to pursue postgraduate studies at



A letter from the Little Family collection. Pre-stamp lettersheets used just one sheet of paper for economy. They were available in the 18th and 19th centuries as pre-paid postal stationery issued by postal operators. The letter was written on one side with the reverse side reserved for the address, folds, and seal.

Notice the relative formality and artful elegance of the address. The handwriting is by far the most cultivated in the collection. This hand belonged to that of the physician, S.R. Kellogg, who would have been the most educated of letter writers. Interestingly, today a physician's prescription is often shortened to "script," as if to reflect the notoriously illegible manner in which they are dashed off.

Fordham, Harvard and Princeton, as time allows.

Ms. Bachelder, being a "lefty," has always been fascinated by how we write. Attending Rudolf Steiner elementary school on Long Island, she was allowed to create her own style of writing in a way that was comfortable for her. This led to a keen interest in the shape of letters and their history. Her interest in the tools and materials for writing was enhanced by the family myth that her German ancestors in Cologne had manufactured the ink used by Gutenberg to print his Bible. The family there is in fact still in the

Article continued on page 5

Sheffield Historical Society

FY 2010 SUPPORTERS' LIST

This list includes all forms of support received in fiscal year 2010 (7/1/09-6/30/10). The aggregate amount was used to determine the level of funding. This includes Annual Appeal/Membership 2009, Lighting Fund Appeal 2009, Autumn Party contributions, and in-kind donations. Please note that donations to Annual Appeal 2010 do not appear on this list. Thank you for helping make the Society all it can be!

BENEFACTOR (\$1000+)

P & C Collins Fund
The Sheffield Grange
Rene Wood & Dennis Sears

SPONSOR (\$500-\$999)

Marcia Brolli	Noreene Storrie &
Cynthia & Thomas Dixon	Wesley McCain
Carolyn & Pattison Fulton	The Joseph H. &
Catherine & Jim Miller,	Carol F. Reich Fund
<i>in memory of Sally Proper</i>	

PATRON (\$100-\$499)

Sandra & Dale Alden	Linda & Jack McKelvey
Emily & John Alexander	Jean & Gary Miller
Mary Bartholomew,	Martha Miller-Leveillee
<i>in memory of Beth Bartholomew</i>	Ann & Daniel Moulton
Barbara & Malcolm Bayliss	Elizabeth H. O'Connor
John F. Bellinger	Anita & John Ormsbee
Robin Berthet Construction	Charlotte A. Owens &
Pam Bloodworth	John F. Owens
Jim Brandi	Elaine & Fred Panitz
Joan Brooks	Susan & Ted Pittman
Barbara & Patrick Burns	Cora Portnoff &
Carlson Propane	Wray Gunn
Elizabeth M. Chapin	Mr. & Mrs. Frank
Constance M. Cincotta	Richardson
K.C. Clow	Susan Rothschild &
Constance Cooper	Don Freedman
Alice Corbin & Norma Edsall	Ellen & Peter Rowntree
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Rene Gibson	Sheinberg
Joyce & Ross Hawkins	Nancy P. Smith
Gillian & Norman Hettinger	Katherine E. Stookey &
John James & Kathy Ness	John Stookey
Mary Joch & Charles Joch, Jr.	Kathy & Tom Tetto
Athena & Richard W. Kimball	Rebecca Myers Thomas &
Allison Lassoe	Robert M. Thomas, Jr.
Lois & Brian Levinsohn	Karen & Merle Varney
Caroline Y. Lindemann	Mary Vaughn &
Christine Ludurszewski &	Judith Williams,
Greig Siedor	<i>in honor of Joyce Hawkins</i>
Alice Lustig	Edith & Loet Velmans
Jon A. MacClaren &	Elissa Williams &
Christopher Sink	Richard Zimmerman
Dawn Massini	Nina & Don Worth

Dear Members and Friends,

It's amazing how fast a year as president of The Sheffield Historical Society has flown by! It has been a very busy year thanks to all the hard work of our team of Joanna, an active and engaged Board, our many members, and especially our core of committees and volunteers. I'd like to thank two of our trustees who will not be on the board for our 38th year beginning on July 1: Joyce Hawkins and Gillian Hettinger. Gillian resigned earlier due to personal situations limiting the amount of time she could spend in Sheffield, but she has continued to help out as time permits and we look for her continued help moving forward. Joyce Hawkins' term as a trustee is over after a great run as chair of our program committee. The good news is Joyce has agreed to continue as program chair and we look forward to a continued flow of interesting programs!

Our 37th year of operation promised a "two-edged sword" of great opportunities and rewards in carrying out our mission while also offering the financial challenges of the current economic environment. Thanks to the work of those mentioned above, the Society has been successful with both the opportunities and the challenges. We've had wonderful programs at Dewey Hall and outstanding exhibits in the Old Stone Store. This year the Society has two partnerships resulting in two great exhibits: the partnership with the Sheffield Land Trust resulting in the *Voices from the Fields: The Family Farms of Sheffield* exhibit ending in the Old Stone Store on June 6th and the partnership with local antique dealers, various museums, cultural institutions and individuals resulting in *The Little Family & 19th Century Correspondence* exhibit open in the Dan Raymond House through October 31st, and combining with *ABCs of Letter Writing: The History & Art of 19th Century Correspondence* in the Old Stone Store from June 12th through July 11th.

We also saw a new fund raising program thought up and chaired by Lois Levinsohn and Rene' Wood, the "All-You-Can-Eat Pasta Dinner" and silent auction held at the American Legion, with part of the money going to fund the food banks of Sheffield and Great Barrington. Many of you have already responded to the Annual Appeal and I hope that everyone will remember to do so during this busy season.

I'm pleased to report that we have three members who have agreed to stand for election as trustees at the Society's Annual Meeting this year. These three new trustees will bring us to a total of seven, the maximum set by our by-laws after the change in 2009. New Trustees, if elected, will be Paul O'Brien, Susan Pittman and Paul Banevicius. These three represent a wide range of backgrounds and talents that will strengthen the board in many ways. I'll give more detailed background on them when I introduce them at the Annual Meeting on Friday, June 11th.

As we move forward together the Board and I look forward to your support and appreciate any additional help, ideas and feedback you care to give.

H. Dennis Sears, *President*



Upcoming Events & Exhibits

DRH Hours: Tues.-Thurs., 11-4 pm & Sat., 1-4 pm | **OSS Hours:** Sat., 10-2 pm & Sun. 11-3 pm



NOW–Sunday, October 31, 2010. **19th Century Correspondence in Sheffield: The Exhibit of Little Family Letters**

A newly acquired collection of 19th century letters written from Sheffield to Connecticut by members of the Little family are related to the Dan Raymond House, where a later generation of the family lived. Period furnishings provided by local antiques dealers and members of the community alongside mannequins and poignant excerpts from letters complete the scene. Come learn how the letters shed a new light on the past and behold the parlors of the museum utterly transformed! *The exhibit is located in the Dan Raymond House Museum. There will be a reception on Saturday, June 19, 3-5 pm.*

Friday, June 11, 7:30 pm. **Annual Meeting & The History & Art of Calligraphy**

Classical scholar and lifelong calligrapher, Susan Bachelder, will discuss the art and history of the written word. (For more information, see feature article). *The program will take place in Dewey Memorial Hall.*

Saturday, June 12—Sunday, July 11, 2010

19th Century Correspondence in Sheffield: The ABCs of Letter Writing

A retrospective exhibit of writing and related tools of communication on loan from antiques dealers, private collections, and other museum and cultural institutions, references the exhibit in the Dan Raymond House. The Little family letters will be on display alongside objects related to the art and history of correspondence such as samples of calligraphy, samplers, fountain pens, inkwells, stamp collections, lap desks, and writing tables. *The exhibit will be installed in the Old Stone Store. A reception for both exhibits will be held in the Old Stone Store on Saturday, June 19, 3-5 pm.*

Friday, July 16—Sunday, August 1, 2010. **Five Friends Art Exhibit**

The Five Friends: Walter Bogard, Hans Heuberger, Sean Ryder, Lois Ryder, and Lois Van Clef return for their fifth year to the Old Stone Store with recent works. The exhibit will correspond with Housatonic Valley Art League's Juried Show in Dewey Memorial Hall, where more of the artists' work will be featured. *There will be a reception on Saturday, July 17, 1-3 pm.*

Saturday, August 7—Sunday, September 5, 2010. **From Sheffield to Egremont: A House's Journey**

Marsha Ginsberg, a photographic artist and stage designer from New York City and Egremont, has documented the rescuing and subsequent moving and restoration of the ca. 1840 Conway House from Bow Wow Rd., Sheffield to Jug End Rd., Egremont. The house has compelling historic merit because it was once thought to be a stop on the Underground Railroad. This multi-media exhibit will integrate a series of photographs and film clips edited by the artist and local history research prepared by the Society. *The exhibit will be located in the Old Stone Store. Date of reception TBA.*

Saturday, September 10, 7:30 pm. **Berkshire Trivia Night**

Local educator Phil Smith, author of the new "Love The Berkshires Quiz Game," a trivia game that challenges players to answer questions about local history, will lead a round of Berkshire trivia in this alternative to the Society's popular "What's It? Night" program. The game's 2,447 questions vary from comical to challenging to impossible, but players are sure to come away illuminated about the region's past! *The program will take place in Dewey Memorial Hall.*

Saturday, September 18 & October 2, 11 am. **Heritage Walks: Architectural Walking Tour of Sheffield**

Many well-built historic houses still adorn Sheffield's Main Street, and this walking tour is designed to point them out and refer briefly to some of the illustrious Sheffield citizens who owned them. For a more detailed history, visitors are referred to the Sheffield Historical Society's Mark Dewey Research Center. *The tour will start at Sheffield Historical Society, 159 Main St.*

Saturday, October 2, 2 pm. **Annual Sheffield Spirit Walk**

Join us in Center Cemetery for this popular event in a theatrical encounter with Sheffield history as memorable residents from our town's past are re-cast. Learn their stories as they are vividly brought back to life before you! *Center Cemetery is located on Berkshire School Rd., a stone's throw from DeVries Building Supply.*

Friday, October 8, 7:30 pm. **Songs of the Revolution**

Singer and historian Diane Taraz presents the "soundtrack" to the American Revolution, exploring the fascinating world behind the lyrics of the songs that rallied both sides. In colonial dress, she sings and accompanies herself on guitar and Appalachian mountain dulcimer, transporting her listeners back to the turbulent time of our country's birth. *The program will take place in Dewey Memorial Hall.*

FAMILY/DUAL (\$50-99)

Ginger & Ray Alexander	Sue & Bob MacVeety,
Karin & Allen Altman	<i>in memory of Clarence Martin</i>
Doreen & Walter Atwood	<i>& Floyd Woodbeck</i>
Paul R. Banevicius	Marian & Antonio Malnati
Ann B. Barrett	Barbara & Norman Margolis
Anne Barstow & Tom Driver	Gregg S. Massini Bus Co.
Arthur J. Batacchi,	Jeanne & Norman Merrill
<i>in memory of Betty Batacchi</i>	Sharon & George Milukas
Timothy F. Beard	Pat Molholt & Louis Levine
Paul Benjou & P.J. Birriel	Amanda Morgan &
Blanche Bennett	Chris Coenen
Elizabeth Cary &	Veda & Rusty Mott
Ricky Bernstein	Patrice Mullin
Mildred & Lo-Yi Chan	C. Twiggs Myers, <i>in memory of</i>
Kathleen & Neil Chrisman	<i>Alice Ann Chase & Art Chase</i>
Ursula & Walter Cliff	Adrienne Naessil &
Dr. & Mrs. Noel L. Cohen	Renee Voltmann
Abbott Combes, III	MaryEllen J. O'Brien &
Jacqueline & William Connell	Paul O'Brien
Dorothy A. & Peter Crockett	Kathy & Tom Orlando
Dana D. Cummings	Andrea & Dan Patel
Kitty & Dick Cunningham	Nancy O'Donohue &
Mrs. Francis Dallett	Richard W. Pearse
Ann & Bob Dean	Seymour "Rob" Robins
Nancy & Dwight Dellert	Mrs. Ted Romaine Family
Dorothy & William DeVoti	Alan & Linda Rosen
Anne & Kerry Douglas	Amy Rudnick & Ben Hillman
Audrey & John Downie	Annie Ryder
Frances Eastburn	Mary & Bob Safian
Margit Branch Elam	Shellie & Bernard Schneider
Richard Esposito	Becky & Ken Schopp
Joyce Freundlich &	Pauline & Carl Schumann
Norman Schnayer	Judy & Gary Schumer
Betsy & Phil Garcia	Andrea Scott &
Ruth & Susan Gillette	Robert Jenter
Elsie & John Gilligan	Ann & Bob Shanks
David Goldman &	Barbara & James Shiminski
Mark Schaffer	E. Bonnie Silvers
Virginia Goldner &	Diane Smith &
Stephen Rosenheck	David Smith, Sr.
Sharon Gregory	Hope & Howard J. Swanson
Ada Hastings &	Judith & Ron Timm
George Raymond	Rosemary & Arthur Uffner
Susan & Joseph Hurlburt	Hester Velmans &
Dr. & Mrs. James R. Hurley	Peter Chernerff
Nancy Jones & Gilbert Schrank	Diana Vollmer &
Christine & Joseph Kelley	Henry Vollmer, III
Beverly & James Kimball	Paula M. Wardynski
Ruth Kolbert & Fred Pomerantz	Terry Welsch
Nancy Kriegl	Elsie D. West
Maria G. Kubis &	Marilyn & John Wightman
Thaddeus B. Kubis	Elizabeth C. Wilson &
Wendy & Stephen Leigh	William Wilson
Candida & Douglas Logan	

INDIVIDUAL

Mark Bachetti Plumbing	Grace & John Campbell,
Betty & Fred Bangs	<i>in memory of David Cartinelli</i>
Trumbell Barrett	Barbara A. Carr &
Jean Blackmur	Edwin Carr, Jr.
Steven Borns	Julie & Neal B. Chamberlain
Grace W. Brown	Sally Chamberlain Cook
Bill Browne	Holly Coon
Thomas Buckley	Charles A. DuCharme
Allen County Public Library	Nancy B. Emery

Annual Reports

Nominating Committee

Position	Individual	Term
President	H. Dennis Sears (incumbent)	2012
Vice President	Lois Levinsohn (incumbent)	2012
Treasurer	Connie Cooper (incumbent)	2011
Secretary	Philip Detjens (incumbent)	2012
Trustee	Paul Banevicius	2013
Trustee	Marcia Brolli (incumbent)	2012
Trustee	Wray Gunn (incumbent)	2012
Trustee	Paul O'Brien	2012
Trustee	Susan Pittman	2013
Trustee	Greig Siedor (incumbent)	2012
Trustee	Kathleen Tetro (incumbent)	2012

H. Dennis Sears, President

Mark Dewey Research Center

The research center is an arm of the Society associated most often with historical exploration and family history although our work often takes us beyond these boundaries. We receive inquiries by e-mail, telephone, walk-ins and U.S. mail. They are researched by trained volunteers, the results sent on and copies of the work often retained for future use. In addition to adding to our collection in that way, we also actively solicit information from our many patrons, make occasional purchases and receive, gratefully, donations from friends and members.

Perhaps our most important addition to our collection this past year was the acquisition of about two dozen letters from the Little family of Sheffield, some of whom lived in the Dan Raymond House Museum. This correspondence is the basis of two exhibits this year, one presently in the Museum and one, scheduled later this summer in the Old Stone Store.

Volunteers Betty Chapin and David Prouty, continue to give faithful service to the Society and its members and patrons. Our regular hours are Monday and Friday, 1:30 to 4:00 and by appointment provided a volunteer can be available.

James Miller, Volunteer Archivist

Buildings & Grounds Committee

The Sheffield Historical Society is headquartered at 1774 Dan Raymond House Museum, 159 Main Street, Sheffield. In addition it maintains six other historic structures that date from the 19th century: The Mark Dewey Research Center, the brick Education Center, the Parker J. Hall law office, a carriage barn, a Greek-revival smokehouse, and The Old Stone Store.

Last winter the Center for Ecological Technology (CET) performed an energy audit, assessing ways in which the Society buildings could become more energy-efficient. As per the company's recommendation, an insulation upgrade was

installed in the attics of both the Research Center and the Museum, which also received a gable vent. The Society completed the work with the purchase of an energy-efficient refrigerator.

This spring the Society compost bin was rebuilt and installed on the west end of the Society grounds with the help of Berkshire School students and volunteer herb gardeners Ann Riou and Helen Macy.

The grounds staff include: volunteer, Brian Levinsohn, who has created street signs for various Society benefits; Joe Buchte, who mows and grooms the lawns; volunteers, Ann Riou and Helen Macy, who tend the herb beds; and gardener, Kathy Moore, who maintains the flower gardens.

The Society's administrator continues to live on the site and oversees its general operations. The Society is currently seeking a new chairperson for its buildings & grounds committee.

Joanna Jennings, Administrator

Collections Committee

Members of the Collections Committee for the current fiscal year were: Philip Detjens, Catherine & Jim Miller, Kathy Tetro and Joanna Jennings (ex officio).

The effort begun last year to transcribe details from the Society's collection from paper inventory sheets onto a computer software program continues to be a major activity.

The consolidation of collections storage and reclassification of the Society textile collection by category rather than by donor is another project underway. The effort began last winter in the Dan Raymond House Museum burning room and will continue upstairs into the attic storage bays in the fall.

The Society has recently been notified of two significant donations. One is an 18th century millstone from a mill on Sage's Ravine contributed by the estate of Ethel T. Storer, a former Sheffield resident. The other is a cart used to carry marble over a narrow gauge track from the Gooddale Quarry, which was donated by Barbara Demolino.

Philip Detjens, Trustee

Finance & Audit Committee

The Finance & Audit Committee meets quarterly to review and monitor the Society's budget and portfolio. Year-to-date income and expense balances are compared to actual and any material variances are investigated. Portfolio allocations are reviewed with adjustments made, if necessary.

The Committee reviews the Annual Statement, Tax Return and budget and recommends their approval by the Board of Trustees.

The Committee supports the wonderful work of the Society and its officers, board and administrator and the quality profile and programs offered to the community.

Connie Cooper, Treasurer

INDIVIDUAL (Con't)

Inez S. Flinn	Dorothy Marosy, <i>in memory</i>
Sandra & Jack French	<i>of Henry Massini</i>
Marcia Friedman	Norma Moulton
Maree & Natalie Funk	Istar H. Mudge
Maryanne & William Gillooly	Judy & Tician Papachristou
Judith H. Gott	Wesley Petersen, <i>in memory</i>
Richard L. Greene	<i>of Kathryn K. Gibbs</i>
Lindsay & Richard A. Greene	Janet Plunkett
Leonard Graziano &	Marsha & David Pottle
William Grief	Joan & Kenneth Powers,
Arlene & Ed Grossman	<i>in memory of Freddie Martin</i>
Marguerite Gulick	Doris & Alfred Richardson
Lovina Gulotta,	Ann M. Riou
<i>in memory of Santi Gulotta</i>	Muriel Rokos
Joan & John Hanlon	Jessica Roseman
Esther Heffernan	Anthony Sabatelli
Claire K. Height	Libby & Charles Schmidt
Caitlyn Hotaling	Gillian Shallercross
Franziska &	Evelyn Small
Donald V. Kenney	Betsy Smith, <i>in memory</i>
Beverly Kradel	<i>of Mildred R. Smith</i>
Wendy Linscott &	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Traub
James Lamme	A.J. Trocchi, <i>in memory</i>
Alice Leason	<i>of Edith Trocchi</i>
Gary LeBeau	Olga & Bruno Verunesi
Susan & Philip Lebowitz	Marion Whitman
Robert D. Ledlie	Martha & Barry Williamson
Sarah Macy	Susan & Tom Young

Article continued from page 1

ink and paper business. Susan's presentation will include the physical history of letter writing and how the tools we have used have informed our alphabets. Materials, kinds of paper, quills and nibs, and our own Massachusetts history of paper manufacturing will be touched on as we discover how the act of writing letters became its own social commentary on American culture and where this endangered art is leading us.

Finally, Ms. Bachelder will discuss the future of writing and of recorded history itself as fewer and fewer people commit ink to paper and rely instead on electronic devices. How will future generations learn about our times if the only communications describing these times are stored in computers?

"The History and Art of Letter Writing and Calligraphy" will be held on **Friday, June 11, at 7:30 p.m.** at Dewey Memorial Hall in Sheffield. The program will be preceded by the Society's annual meeting, and followed by an ice cream social. For further information, call the Sheffield Historical Society at (413) 229-2694.

—Joyce Hawkins, Program Chair

2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

H. Dennis Sears, *President*
Lois Levinsohn, *Vice President*
Connie Cooper, *Treasurer*
Philip Detjens, *Secretary*

Marcia Brolli, *Trustee*
Wray Gunn, *Trustee*
Joyce Hawkins, *Trustee*
Greig Siedor, *Trustee*
Kathy Tetro, *Trustee*

SOCIETY STAFF

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

Hey there! Would you like to join us too?

*The 2010 Sheffield
Spirit Walk
needs the talent
of YOU!*



On April 16 Berkshire School held its annual Gracious Living Day, participating in spring clean-up at various locations throughout the community. The group of students who visited the Society helped clean out the compost bin (above) which volunteer herb gardeners, Ann Riou and Helen Macy, later reconstructed. Other helpers were: Marcia Brolli, Joyce & Ross Hawkins, KC Clow, Philip Detjens, Dennis Sears, and Jim Shiminiski. Thank you to all who took part!

The Sheffield Historical Society



Dan Raymond House Museum • Mark Dewey Research Center • Old Stone Store
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.

159 Main Street
PO Box 747
Sheffield, MA 01257

Phone: 413-229-2694
E-mail: shs@sheffieldhistory.org

1774 Dan Raymond House is open weekdays,
Tuesday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, 1-4 p.m.
Or by appointment.

Mark Dewey Research Center is open weekdays,
Monday & Friday, 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., or by appointment.
Phone: 413-229-3682. Email: mdrc@sheffieldhistory.org

Old Stone Store is open on weekends,
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Closed January through April. Phone: 413-229-2287