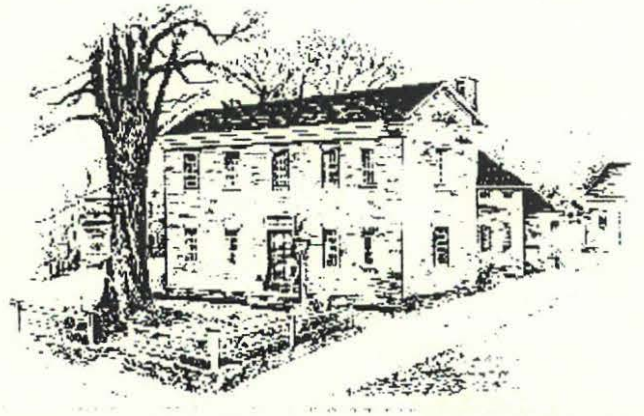


The Sheffield Historical Society

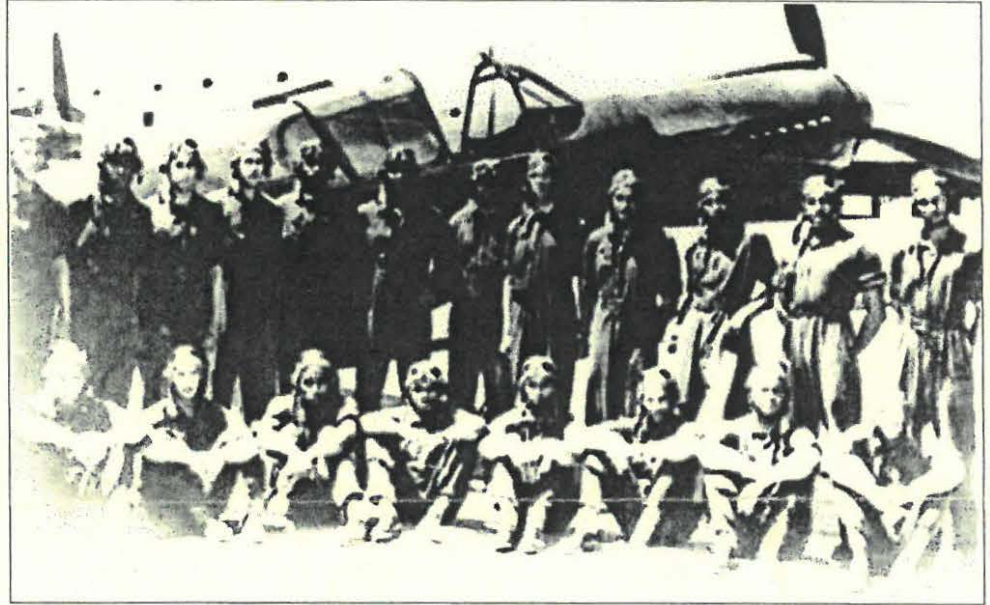


Summer 2011

Tuskegee Airmen

September Program to Feature Tuskegee Airmen

On Friday, Sept. 9, the Historical Society will present Bruce Bird, founder of the Museum of Black World War 2 History in Pownal, Vermont. Mr. Bird will speak about the Tuskegee Airmen, the first all Black Airforce unit to fly combat missions in World War II.



The Tuskegee unit was established in January, 1941, as the Army Air Corps became open to Blacks after decades of segregation. Tuskegee, Alabama, was chosen for the flight school. Because of local prejudice, the 99th fighter squadron was not sent into combat until July 2, 1943, and thus had received more training than any white squadron. This unit was joined in February, 1944 by the 100th, 301st, and 302nd fighter squadrons to form the 332nd fighter group. Eventually the group flew P-51 Mustangs, known as "red tails". The Germans called the 332nd the "Schwartzes Volgelmenchen", or "Black Birdmen." While most white pilots were rotated home after 50 missions, black airmen flew as many as 158 missions, because Tuskegee could not train enough black men to replace them.

The 450 Tuskegee pilots flew over 1,500 missions, destroying 111 enemy aircraft in the air, plus 150 more on the ground. The Tuskegee Airmen also included 994 flight crew and 16,000 to 19,000 ground crew in the Army Air Corps. Many Black units served with great distinction in WW II, and this was a factor in President Truman's order to desegregate the Military in 1948.

Bruce Bird had spent most of his life as a factory worker

until he sustained a back injury in 1977. As a result of this injury, he started a college career at the tender age of 37, when the state of Vermont financed his Associates Degree in Industrial Management. Unable to find employment in that field, Bruce returned to school and earned his BA in History in 1985. From 1988 to 1990, Mr. Bird was part time curator of the Vermont National Guard Museum, while performing fulltime factory work, until at age 64, he accepted early retirement. Having read military history, built military models, and collected military artifacts, he decided to open a military museum. When a former school house became available in Pownal, Mr. Bird decided to honor Black troops with a Museum designed to highlight the forgotten service of 1.1 million African-American servicemen and women who served in World War Two. The Museum of Black WW II History was opened on June 3rd, 2006, and is the only Museum about the African-American service in WW II in the country.

"Tuskegee Airmen" will be presented at Dewey Hall in Sheffield on Sept. 9, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. For further information, call (413) 229-2694.

Joyce Hawkins, with Bruce Bird

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Old Stone Store

Saturdays 10:00 - 2:00 / Sundays 11:00 - 3:00

SHS programs at Dewey Memorial Hall:

Friday, Sept. 9th 7:30 p.m.

The Tuskegee Airman

Bruce Bird of the Museum of Black WW2 History talks about the Tuskegee Airmen, the first African American military aviators in the U.S. armed forces.

Friday, Oct. 14th 7:30 p.m.

The Berkshire Trout Farm

Rhonda Cushwa presents Maxson Food Service & the development of frozen dinners.

Friday, Nov. 10th 7:30 p.m.

Old Stone Store tastings Come check out this year's goodies offered at the Festival of Holidays!

Sunday, Dec. 11th 5:00 p.m.

Sheffield Historical Society Annual Holiday party at the Dan Raymond House.

Exhibits at The Old Stone Store:

Sat. Aug. 6th – late Sept.

Talking Maps :

These Maps Tell Stories

Maps open windows on our history—South County/Sheffield from 1794 to the present. The closer you look, the more stories are uncovered!

Dear Members and Friends,

The Society begins its 39th year of operation on a sad note. The last year has seen us all say good-bye to two of our founding members, Lillian Preiss and Milton Barnum. Lillian and Milton were not only founding members, but both had held most of the Society's leadership positions including President. Both were continuously active in supporting the Society until health conditions no longer permitted such activity. It's very hard to pick out just one highlight of such long, excellent service, but I personally think most people will connect Lillian with the Society through her book, *Sheffield: Frontier Town* and Milton with his wonderful local artifact collection and his annual January "What's It?" program featuring so many items from his collection. More background and obituary notices for both Lillian and Milton are on the Society's web site under the "more" tab and will remain a while longer.

The Old Stone Store has been very active this calendar year beginning with our six-week long giant book sale of the bequest left to the Society by Ursula Gamble Kilner. Detailed information on the collection can be viewed in the Spring 2011 Newsletter found on the website at <http://sheffieldhistory.weebly.com/newsletter.html>. Following this was the just-closed exhibit, "Sheffield During the Civil War." Open now is "Talking Maps: These Maps Tell Stories," illustrating some of the changes that have taken place in South County, primarily Sheffield, from the date of the earliest map, 1794, to the 21st century.

A great lineup of monthly program meetings in Dewey Hall starting in September appears in this newsletter, so mark these on your calendar now!

Many hard working member volunteers, board members, speakers, and community members make all these events happen, and I'd like to thank several people who have "timed out" of positions at the June 30th fiscal year end. Connie Cooper has served her three years as Treasurer of the Society and Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee, a major load to carry while she also held a full time job in addition to family duties. I'm happy to say she has accepted an appointment by the Trustees to the position of Funds Manager. Philip Detjens has served his three years as Secretary of the Society in addition to years of work on the Finance and Audit, Collections, and Fund Raising Committees. Philip has agreed to stay on as a member of the Collections Committee. Please join me in thanking Connie and Philip for their many hours of support for the Society. A list of the current FY12 Officers and Trustees is found here in the newsletter.

The Society thanks those who have continued membership this calendar year with a donation to the Sheffield Historical Society Annual Appeal. Money raised from the Annual

Annual Reports

Board of Directors 2011-2012

Position	Individual	Term
President	H. Dennis Sears	2012
Vice President	Paul O'Brien	2013
Treasurer	Lois Levinsohn	2014
Secretary	Susan Pitman	2014
Trustee	Paul Banevicius	2013
Trustee	Marcia Brolli	2012
Trustee	Wray Gunn	2012
Trustee	Greig Siedor	2012
Trustee	Kathleen Tetto	2012
Trustee	Joyce Hawkins	2014
Funds Manager	Connie Cooper	2012
MDRC Director	James R. Miller	2012
Administrator	Barbara L. Dowling	



President's Letter continued from page 2:

Appeal goes toward the operating expenses of the Society (programs, exhibits, staff, buildings, utilities, etc.). You may want to consider the use of an "IRA Charitable Roll-over" for your annual appeal donation this year or perhaps for a larger gift to the Society's endowment fund. This year is the last year individuals may roll over up to \$100,000 from an individual retirement account (IRA) directly to a qualifying non-for-profit institution without recognizing the assets transferred as income. If you are 70½ or older and are required to take a "Minimum Required Distribution" (MRD) from an IRA this year, you might want to consider making such a donation this year. For more information, contact your tax or financial advisor.

Thank you all for your support of the Sheffield Historical Society in both time and treasure and I look forward to seeing you this year at one of our events.

H. Dennis Sears

President, Sheffield Historical Society
HDennisSears@verizon.net

The Mark Dewey Research Center

The research and reference aspect of the Society, represented by our Mark Dewey Research Center, has completed another successful year in assisting people with historic questions that commonly serves authors, both historical and fictional, usually seeking hard facts as well as perspicacity; house and family history researchers; name origins (Bow Wow Road is a common one); demographics; local slavery (Yes, it existed here.) trees (If you can imagine.) and Black history, among many others. The inquiries number in the hundreds annually and come by walk in, telephone, USPS and e-mail. Although there are slow periods, at times we are overwhelmed. During the lulls the all-volunteer staff does housekeeping activities related to preservation of the permanent collection which grows apace, primarily through donations by patrons who are grateful for the use of our resources.

Aside from our day-to-day program, we reached two milestones this past year, namely the acquisition of a local historical collection from the estate of Ursula Kilner and the services of Taylor Neil, a young, enthusiastic and energetic volunteer archivist.

An occasion we may not see again was the splendid acquisition of Ursula's library from her estate. She was an early member of the Society, and a certified genealogist, which explains the vastness of her collection. It covered, among many other subjects, town histories of Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York, county histories of the same areas and a number of published genealogies related to families of the tri-state area. The volumes added to our collection number in the hundreds. Her research manuscripts, now in Ohio being organized, will follow.

This acquisition, indeed, puts the Society in the position of being a significant research facility for the tri-state area. It is doubtful that anybody doing historical work on South County can safely ignore our collection.

Taylor, our most recent volunteer, will be a junior at Mount Everett this fall. His summer time contribution is a perfect fit for the Society since one of our regular volunteers takes that season off. We hope to have Taylor's talents for at least two more years but hope for even more. His ultimate goal is to become a lawyer.

Drop in sometime to see the new acquisitions and to meet the volunteers. We are open to the public on Mondays and Fridays, 1:30 to 4:00 or by appointment if a volunteer is available. We also post home phone numbers at the Center in the event of a casual out of town drop in.

Betty Chapin, James Miller, Taylor Neil, David Prouty, volunteers

Sheffield Historical Society

FY 2011 Supporter's List

Benefactor

Paul & Carol Collins

Sponsor

Dennis Sears & Rene Wood
Wesley McCain & Noreene Storrie
Jim & Catherine Miller

Patron

Philip & Susan Detjens	A. J. Dibrita
Emily & John Alexander	Peter & Patricia Elsbach
Edwin L. & Carla M. Boardman	Michael Farmer
Jim Brandi	Bruce & Marcia Fowle
Marcia Brolli	Rene Gibson
Patricia J. Carlson	John James & Kathy Ness
Gail Kallock	Charles & Mary Joch, Jr.
Brian & Lois Levinsohn	Nancy Kriegel
Elisabeth O'Connor	Caroline Y. Lindemann
Kent Clow III	Jon A. MacClaren & Christopher Sink
Constance Cooper	Dawn Massini
Thomas & Cynthia Dixon	Kent A. Mauk
Norma Edsall & Alice Corbin	Robert D. Mercurio
John & Katherine Stookey	Gary & Jean Miller
Joan Brooks	John-Arthur & Trudy Miller
Don Freedman & Susan Rothschild	Donald & Roswitha Mott
Richard W. & Athena Kimball	John & Charlotte Owens
Peter & Ellen Rowntree	Michael Saxton
Greig Siedor & Christine Ludurszewski	Joanne Schmidlin
Alice Lustig	Judy Schnurr
Patrick & Barbara Burns	Ken & Becky Schopp
Malcolm & Barbara Bayliss	Myron & Marcia Sheinberg
Robin Berthet	Walton Stevens
Pam Bloodworth	Robert & Rebecca Thomas
Elizabeth Cary & Ricky Bernstein	Merle & Karen Varney
Harry Conklin & Ali Winston	Loet & Edith Velmans
J. Nicoll & Mary Cooper	Sandra Wijnberg
Mrs. Franklin Curtis	Richard Zimmerman & Elissa Williams

Family/Dual

Neal & Julie Chamberlain	Steven & Julie Hannum
Ross & Joyce Hawkins	Joseph & Susan Hurlburt
Gregg S. Massini	Dr. & Mrs. James R. Hurley
Carl & Pauline Schumann	Robert Jenter & Andrea Scott
Susan and Ted Pitman	Joseph & Christine Kelley
Ormsbee Gas Co., Inc.	Beverly Kradel
Ormsbee Gas Co., Inc.	Allison G. Lassoe
Ray & Ginger Alexander	Bob & Sue MacVeety
Allan & Karin Altman	Antonio & Marian Malnati
Walter & Doreen Atwood	Barbara E. Martin
Paul R. Banevicius	Jack M. & Lynda B. McKelvey
Arthur Batacchi, Sr.	Norman & Jeanne Merrill
Paul Benjou & P. J. Birriel	Richard Meyers & Ann E. Barnes
Blanche Bennett	Dan & Ann Moulton
Jean W. Blackmur	Walter & Gail Orenstein
Bill Browne	Fred & Elaine Panitz
Bruce & Carol Broyles	Dan and Andrea Patel
Mildred & Lo-Yi Chan	Fred Pomerantz & Ruth Kolbert
Elizabeth Chapin	Carl Proper
Neil & Kathleen Chrisman	George Raymond & Ada Hastings
Walter & Ursula Cliff	Jonathan & Lisa Reynolds
Dr. Noel L. & Mrs. Baukje Cohen	Rob Robins
Abbott Combes III	Mrs. Ted C. Romaine & Family
William & Jacqueline Connell	Annie Ryder
Gary & Janet Cookson	Mark Schaffer & David Goldman
Charlotte H. Dallett	Bernard & Shellie Schneider
Bob & Ann Dean	Bob and Ann Shanks
Dwight & Nancy Dellert	Jim & Barbara Shiminski
Kerry & Anne Douglas	Susan Silver
John & Audrey Downie	George T. Smith
Frances A. Eastburn	Howard & Hope Swanson
Branch & Margit Elam	Marcel & Millie Tenenbaum
Phil & Betsy Garcia	Tom & Kathy Tetro
Ruth A. Gillette & Susan Gillette	Paula Wardynski
John & Elsie Gilligan	John & Marilyn Wightman
Virginia Goldner	Barry & Martha Williamson
Wray Gunn & Cora Portnoff	Don & Nina Worth

Individual

Cherry! Andrews	Sally Chamberlain Cook
Mark Bachetti	Holly Coon
Fred & Betty Bangs	Priscilla Cote
Ann Barrett	Dana D. Cummings
Trumbell Barrett	Nancy B. Emery
Grace Wallace Brown	Inez Flinn
Grace Campbell	Marcia Friedman
Edwin H. & Barbara Carr, Jr.	Jim Lamme & Wendy Linscott
Anthony & Marjorie Consolini	Philip & Susan Lebowitz

Individual cont.

Dorothy Marosy	Al Trocchi
C. Twiggs Myers	Elsie West
Barbara Jacquette	Alan F. Buckes
Alice Leason	Christopher Coenen & Amanda Morgan
Ann Riou	Dr. Dorothea Franklin
Elizabeth & William Wilson	Natalie & Maree Funk
Allen County Public Library	Dr. Margaret Gulick
Louis Levine & Pat Molholt	Nancy Wilde Hahn
Douglas & Candida Logan	Virginia M. Jackson-Howden
Norman & Barbara Margolis	Donald & Franziska Kenney
Margaret Mitchell	Marsha & David Pottle
Norma Moulton	Dick & Doris Richardson
Istar Mudge	Edmund A. & Arlene P. Grossman
Patrice Mullin	Marion Whitman
Tom & Kathy Orlando	Peter Traub
Mr. & Mrs. Tician Papachristou	Steven Borns
Wesley Peterson	Frederic Gordon & Kathy Dean
Ken & Joan Powers	Lois VanCleaf
Jessica Roseman	Claire Height
Norman Schnayer & Joyce Freundlich	Jack & Sandra French
John & Irma Sisson	Anthony Sabatelli
Evelyn Small	Dana & Chris Williams
Betsy Smith	



The Finance and Audit Committee

The Finance and 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.

Collections Committee

During the fiscal year a major addition to the Society's collection was the purchase of numerous letters, dating from 1807-37, written to and by members of the Little Family relating to activities in the Dan Raymond House in Sheffield, currently one of the Society's headquarters buildings. Another contribution comes in the form of a mid-20th century wedding dress, designed by John Burbidge, which expands our collection of period wedding gowns and costumes.

The estate of Ursula Kilner, a former Sheffield Historical Society member, donated several hundred books, many being important genealogical sources, which we incorporated into the Society's research library, with some material given to other local Historical Societies, where appropriate. The bulk of the donation was sold, in a major effort on the part of many volunteers, to various educational organizations, local book dealers and to the general public thereby generating several thousands of dollars of unexpected and most welcomed income.

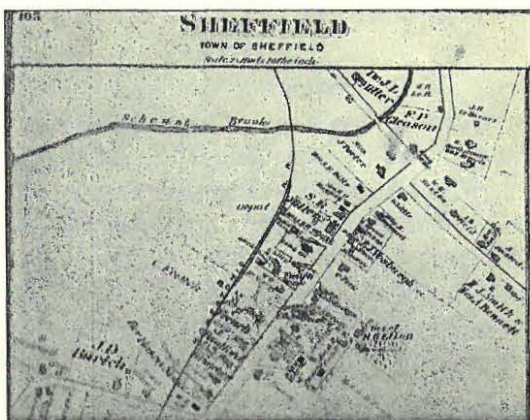
Finally, the task to transcribe details of the Society's collection from paper inventory sheets onto a computer software program for ease of reference is ongoing. Philip S. Detjens, Director

The Program Committee

The Program Committee has worked hard this past year to bring you quality speakers and interesting material. Speakers have included Dennis Picard showing us how the well equipped Civil War volunteer might turn out, Ed Kirby talked about the Iron industry in the Housatonic Valley, Dr. MaryNell Morgan-Brown presented a program on W.E.B. DuBois, and we followed in the footsteps of general Knox's march through the Berkshires with Bruce Rueger. And Chris Coenen again tried to stump the crowd in our annual What's It Night.

Other programs for the year included a tribute to Martin Luther King, the writers of the new book, *On the Other Side of Glory: the Berkshire Men of the 54th Volunteer Infantry Regiment* and our annual Old Stone Store Tastings and the Sheffield Historical Society Holiday Party.

We have lots of exciting and educational—and just plain fun—programs lined up for the new year, so we hope you can join us.



James R. Miller and Taylor Neil curate an exhibit of local maps illustrating some of the changes that have taken place in South County, primarily Sheffield, from the date of the earliest map, 1722, to the 21st century.

The Sheffield Historical Society
presents:

A new exhibit at The Old Stone Store

**August 6 to
Late September, 2011**

TALKING MAPS

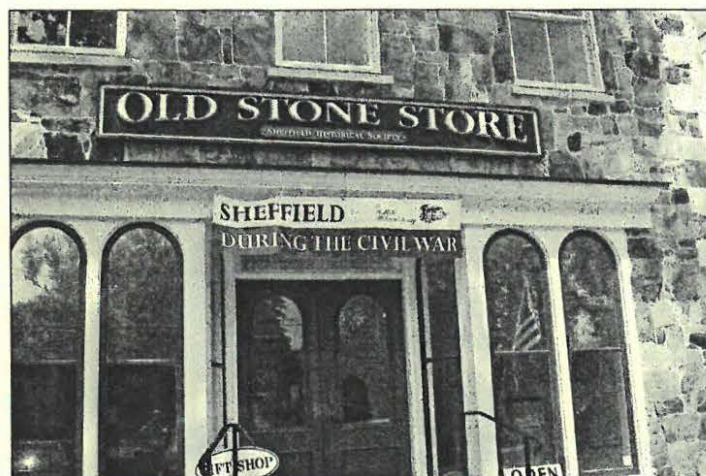
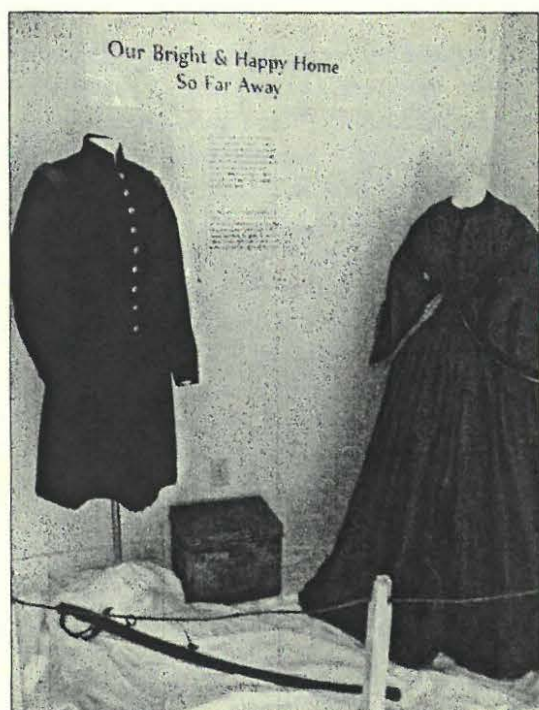
THESE MAPS TELL STORIES

The closer you look
the more stories are uncovered!

June – July Exhibit:

Sheffield During the Civil War

The exhibit ran from May 21st to August 1st.





SHS President, Dennis Sears, and volunteer researcher, Taylor Neil, carry the Society banner in the parade.



SHS Shows the Old Way to get from the Station to the Farm.

Passenger Seat - Betty Chapin, Right Rear Seat – Susan Pitman, Left Rear Seat – Kathy Tetro, Driver and owner of the 190X Ford Station Wagon is Natale Marasco .



SHS Shows the New Way to get from the station to the farm!

Driver and owner of the Mini Cooper convertible—Brian Levinsohn, Passenger Seat – Paul O'Brien, Rear Seat Right – Lois Levinsohn, Rear Seat Left – Dorothy Marosy.

The Sheffield Historical Society Out & About

The town of Great Barrington celebrated their 250th year with a parade through downtown. The Sheffield Historical Society showed our support by marching - and driving—in the parade and joined in the fun and excitement of the day., always happy to share our heritage.



SHS Prepares for the Long March.

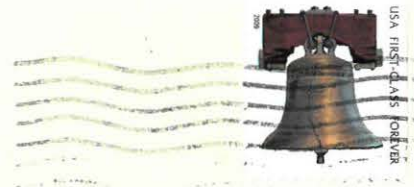
Left to right; Taylor Neil, Dennis Sears, Susan Pitman, Brian & Lois Levinsohn, Paul O'Brien, Dorothy Marosy and Betty Chapin.



Ready to go!

Lois Levinsohn., Dorothy Marosy, Betty Chapin and Taylor Neil are on their way.

*The
Sheffield
Historical Society*



*Dan Raymond House Museum * Mark Dewey Research Center * Old
Stone Store*

*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 transmit that heritage
to current and future generations.*

WWW.SHEFFIELDHISTORY.ORG

137-161 Main Street
P.O. Box 747
Sheffield, MA 01257

Phone: 413-229-2694
Email: shs@sheffieldhistory.org

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

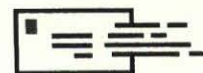
Catherine and Jim Miller [L]
P.O.Box 7
Root Lane
Sheffield, MA 01257



Paperless possibilities!

Help insure your contributions to the Sheffield Historical Society go farther—we are trying to save money and volunteer time by moving interested members to an electronic e-mail format. Receive your quarterly newsletter right on your computer and have fewer papers cluttering up your life! Plus, you can read it from wherever you have access to your e-mail account. If you would prefer to receive your Society newsletters via your computer, please let us know.

This is an **opt-in alternative**. You will continue to receive your newsletter in a hard copy format unless you request otherwise. If you are interested, please contact us via email, by phone or through our website. If you do decide to go paperless, please make sure we have the correct email account address that you would like us to send your newsletter to.



Thank you!