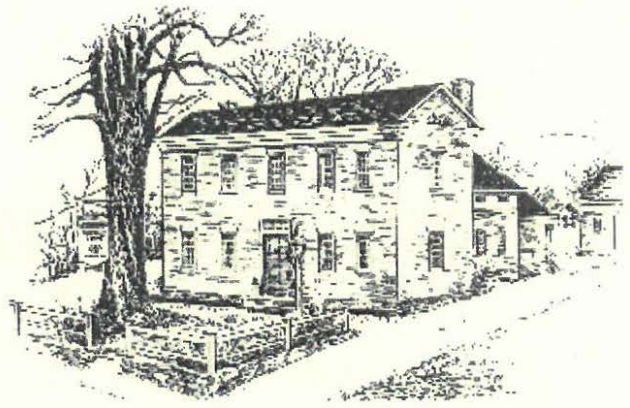
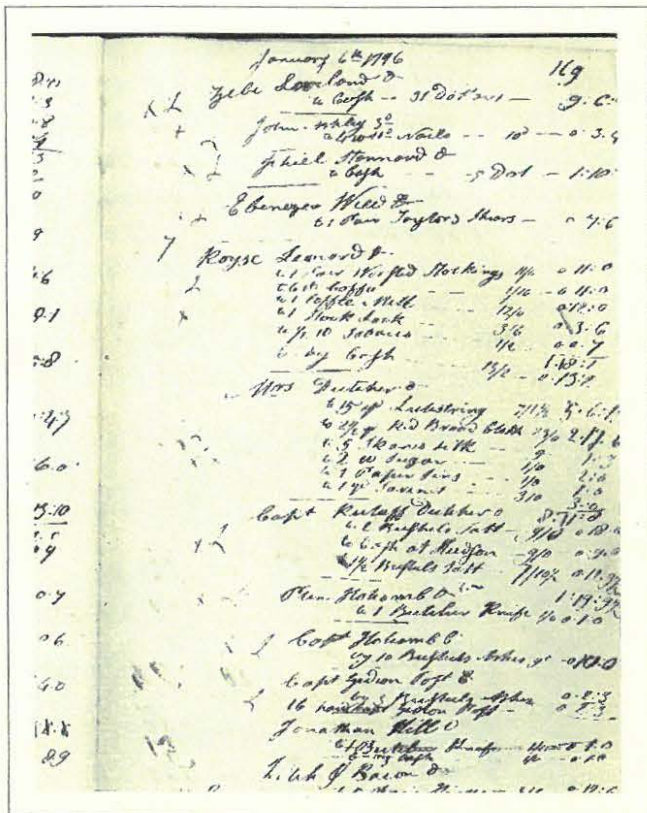


The Sheffield Historical Society



Winter 2013



A GIANT LEAP FORWARD TO THE 18TH CENTURY

correspondence relating to the tri-state area, the Ashley family and its extensive business enterprises which were centered along the Konkapot River in what eventually came to be known as Ashley Falls. Until now only one 18th century account book relating to Sheffield is known locally and it is not in the possession of the Society.

The Hurlburt collection is invaluable to social and economic historians, yielding insights into the local human condition and material culture in such areas as housing, diet, health and medicine, textiles and clothing, livestock and personal property values plus the cost of labor. Other accounts contain information on the family's saw, carding, dyeing, fulling and grist mills along with its nail manufactory for the same time frame. In its totality, the collection paints a clear commercial and economic picture of Sheffield and the surrounding area beginning before the American Revolution and extending 200 years beyond.

A long-term loan of unprecedented importance came to the Society through the thoughtfulness of member Joseph C. Hurlburt formerly of Ashley Falls who was raised there in the William Ashley House by parents Walter and Alice. In short, the loan materials are key to the reconstruct of the daily life of Sheffields in the 18th and 19th century and constitute, perhaps, the most significant addition to our knowledge of locals' lives at that time.

The collection's major feature is several 18th and 19th century account books and family

The documents are also useful to family historians, reducing dependence on the federal decennial census reports that begin only in 1790 and offer very limited content. Conveniently the collection is largely self-indexed with the names of account holders entered alphabetically followed by an item-by-item list of goods both purchased from and sold to the Ashley general store from year to year.

Watch for an exhibit at the Old Stone Store next summer, highlighting the collection, with the most interesting revelations scheduled for release at that time.

James R. Miller

From the President

Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a happy and restful new year. The Sheffield Historical Society is catching its breath from a very busy year and is gearing up for another full year of activities. We are well rested and ready for another great year!



The Garden Goddesses at work - Veta Mott, Kathy Tetro, Sharon Palmer, Susan Pitman and Carolyn Fulton.

Events and Exhibits Our exhibits at the Old Stone Store, our monthly lecture series and our fund-raising activities all received rave reviews and record attendance this past year. We added a golf outing, Spiritfest, Candy Cane Carnival, Garden Party and a volunteer recognition cookout. This upcoming year we have three major exhibits scheduled, Antique Toys, Unmentionables, and the Ashley Family records. The Sheffield Historical Society will be hosting a Garden Club of America Flower Show in conjunction with the Lenox Garden Club to kick off our month long Spiritfest. The flower show, "Berkshire Haunts" will feature floral arrangements, horticultural displays and photographs. There will be a special 'Preview Party' to open the show. Watch our website, emails and mailings for more on these exciting events.

Paul O'Brien
President

Sheffield Historical Society Board members:

Paul O'Brien (President), Wray Gunn (Vice President), Lois Levinsohn (Treasurer), Susan Pitman (Secretary), Dennis Sears, Jeff Browne, Joyce Hawkins, Lisa Reynolds, Paul Banevicius, and K.C. Clow.

DRAWING THE LINE: Political Cartoons in America



40th Year The Sheffield Historical Society is in the middle of its 40th year as an organization. I am so grateful for the fine work our founders did back in 1972 when they took up the task of creating the society. I am reminded every time I walk through our properties, look through our archives or talk with our Members, how hard they worked to make this society the success that it is today. We are all proud to be members of the Sheffield Historical Society. We will have a chance to show that pride at a 40th year celebration during our annual meeting in June of 2013, so bring your memories and appetites!



Susan Pitman, Brian Levinsohn and Catherine Miller as three scary spirits!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Old Stone Store - closed for the season

SHS programs at Dewey Memorial Hall:

- Friday, February 8th** **Murders, Accidents & Sudden Deaths in Sheffield – 7:30**
Join Society Administrator, Barbara Dowling, as she relates tales of strange and sometimes tragic events from Sheffield's past.
- Friday, March 8th** **Slavery & Freedom in Berkshire County - 7:30 p.m.**
Professor Frances Jones-Sneed tells of our African-American Heritage here in the Berkshires.
- Friday, April 12th** **Native Americans in South County - 7:30 p.m.**
Bartholomew's Cobble Ranger, Rene Wendall, talks about the presence of Native Americans here in Sheffield and the vicinity.
- Friday, May 10th** **Gold Star Mothers - 7:30 p.m.**
Greg Siedor presents a program on Sheffield natives who died in World War Two.
- Friday, June 14th** **SHS Annual Meeting - 7:30 p.m.**
40th Year celebration and ice cream social!!!

For more information on What's Going on in Sheffield? ** Visit the Sheffield Community Calendar <<http://www.localendar.com/public/SheffieldCalendar>>

The Sheffield Historical Society invites the support of you and your friends through membership.

Name(s) _____ E-Mail _____

Address _____

Please check: New Renew

Individual (\$15 - \$50) Family (\$51 - \$100) Patron (\$101 - \$500) Sponsor (\$501 - \$1,000)

Please make checks payable to: The Sheffield Historical Society. Send to : P.O. Box 747, Sheffield , MA 01257



Work Weekend - April 20th & 21st



We, as members of the Sheffield Historical Society, are very fortunate to have 5 buildings of local historical importance under our stewardship.

While we all enjoy using these buildings for our various activities, we must also ensure that they remain in good condition so that we can continue to enjoy them in the future. Therefore, we are reaching out to the entire membership to join us

on the weekend of April 20 & 21 for our first annual SHS Work Weekend. The building and grounds

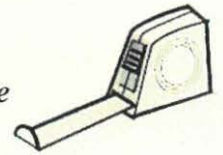
committee has compiled a list of projects which range from simple to fairly complex that we need to tackle. We have "something for everyone" so no special talents are required.

Please join your fellow members as we put a shine on our campus and ready it for the coming summer season. Give however much time you can - one hour or 2 days - we'll welcome it all. It promises to be a fun and rewarding time so please join us.

More details will follow in the next newsletter.



Jeff Browne



Come join us!

SpiritFest

The October SpiritFest was a new activity for the Society this past fall. The Society built upon the always popular Spiritwalk by adding a Zombie building contest, a pumpkin carving contest and a scary movie night. Unfortunately, the majority of the activities took place during the north east's version of a haunting - Hurricane Sandy! Although a few of the activities were canceled, those in attendance for the Spirit Walk, Zombie building and scary movie enjoyed a spirited adventure. SpiritFest 2013 will be bigger and better with the addition of a Garden Club of America flower show "Berkshire Haunts."



Annual Appeal & Membership 2012

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Hope and Howard Swanson
Marcel & Millie Tenenbaum
Kathy and Tom Tetro
Diana and Henry Vollmer, III
Phyllis & Dale Webb
Marilyn and John Wightman
Martha and Barry Williamson
Susan and Tom Young

Individuals

Allen Co. Public Library
Cheryl Andrews & Peter Robinson
Mark Bachetti
Frederick & Betty Bangs
Ann Barrett
Trumbull Barrett
Steven Borns
Sheryl Bradley
Grace Wallace Brown
Alan Buckes
Edwin H. & Barbara Carr, Jr.
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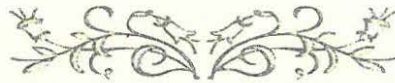
We need your help!

The Sheffield Historical Society is reaching out to its many members by inviting them to become actively involved in several of our committees. The work of the society is very important to our community, and the work of our many volunteers aids the society in promoting its mission in our community. The committees listed below are looking for volunteers. If you have already volunteered for our other activities, THANK YOU! If you haven't volunteered and would like to consider helping out, please contact us, by email (shs@sheffieldhistory.org) or by calling us at 229-2694.

Committees:

***Exhibitions * Collections * Buildings and Grounds * Making items for the OSS *
Fund Raising * Education***

Thank you.



Catherine Miller demonstrates a holiday craft at the Candy Cane Carnival



Strolling in the beautiful gardens of Netherby Hall at the Summer Garden Party.



Thank you, Berkshire Bank!



Berkshire Bank's "Renew & Reuse Technology Partnership Program" recently awarded the Sheffield Historical Society three complete computer systems. The refurbished computers are in use by the Society at the Dan Raymond House and the Mark Dewey Research Center. Many thanks to Berkshire Bank for their generous donation.



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

The Old Stone Store

On the Green in Sheffield

Phone: 413-229-2287

Murders, Accidents & Sudden Deaths... and a few other tantalizing tidbits from Sheffield history

All right, let's all admit that we secretly like a good tale about robberies and cannibalism, murders and ghosts. We're only human after all. But so were our ancestors in this area, as everywhere and every time else, and Southern Berkshire County has its own tales to tell of accidents, weather run amok or just the baser side of human nature. Now is the chance to hear it all without any of the guilt – it's history, not the National Enquirer!

The Sheffield Historical Society's February program will feature Society Administrator, Barbara Dowling, relating tales of just such interesting happenings from around the area in times past. The program entitled "Murders, Accidents and Sudden Deaths in Sheffield," will be held Friday, February 8th at 7:30 p.m. in Dewey Memorial Hall. Learn about the murders, tragedies, floods, poltergeists and even a very sticky situation that took place as part of our history. You won't want to miss this one!

As always, our programs are free and open to the public. There'll be refreshments and friends to meet after the speaker runs out of steam. Hope you can make it.



Neal Chamberlain portrays stagecoach blacksmith, Jonathan Graham, for the 2012 Spirit Walk.