



Times Past

Shrewsbury Historical Society
Newsletter

Year One of the 21st Century

President's Note:

I would like to thank all of our faithful volunteers for their help staffing our museum, setting up our exhibits and maintaining our artifacts and archives.

Happy holidays to everyone!

Fran Patten

Two Grant Requests Received

The SHS applied for in 1999 and received in January 2000 a grant from the Vt. Museum and Gallery Alliance Collections Care Committee for a special hepa filter vacuum. The grant allowed \$253 towards the total cost of \$758.95. The second grant was from the Vt. Historical Society Cultural Facilities which allowed \$1,575 towards the total cost of \$3,150 for an oil-fired furnace.

Annual Meeting

At the April 13, 2000 annual meeting, the following officers were named: President, Fran Patten; Vice President, Richard Bettelli; Treasurer, Bud Clark; and Secretary, Ruth Winkler. Trustees: 3 years, Richard Wiedmann and Con Winkler; 2 years, Gloria Benson and John Elwert; and one year remains for Al Ridlon, Sr. and Don Butler. Marjorie Pierce is our standing Honorary Trustee.

Curator's Corner

Members of the Museum Committee attended 9 workshops sponsored by the Vermont Museum and Gallery Alliance including those on Accession Labeling, Identifying Vermont Furniture, Textiles and Ceramics and using artifacts in education. We were able to visit Shelburne Museum's sign and label workshop and their new building with storage, library and conservation lab.

Nancy Spencer

Gifts to SHS, Oct. 1999 to Oct. 2000

Joseph E. Aebischer, Winter Park, FL.: Photos of CCC Camp, Northam 1935 & 36 and newspaper clipping and book *Roosevelt's Forest Army* on CCC.

Janice Ridlon Lawrence, Lake Placid, NY: 2 photos of Waterman family, 1 photo Ridlon house, School St., ca. 1902.

Polly Ridlon Wilson, Bennington, VT: 2 old photos Laurel Glen Cemetery w/statues, 2 cards from Huntoon family, clipping re: Barton Shaw, Mrs. Huntoon's brother, 2 clippings Huntoon family, 4 stereo slides Laurel Glen Mausoleum, 2 photos of Ridlon House on the Shunpike (now G. Brigham), postcard Copperas Hill ca. 1908, photo of Ridlon house fence, photo Waterman House, School St., 2 photos Phalen House, School St. (later Stapleton), one prior to 1896, 2 Christmas cards, Huntoon, 1826 Psalms of David owned by Henry Waterman, Marriage Certificate Freelove Ridlon and George Phalen, notice of Thanksgiving party in Plymouth, photo of Edgar Jonathan Ridlon in front of house on Shunpike, Holy Bible, Edinburgh 1795, family

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Calendar Notes

December 31, 1999

At the stroke of midnight, several Society members had the honor of ringing in the 21st century and the year 2000 by pulling the bell rope to the tower of the museum.

January 2000

The SHS applied to the Town of Shrewsbury with a request of \$2000 for help in maintaining and operating the museum. The request was warned as a line item and was approved in March by a large majority of voters. The cover of the Town Report showed the SHS Board of Directors standing on the steps of the museum. The inside cover was devoted to the historical background of the museum building.

The Museum Committee met with Eli Prouty of the Grafton Historical Society Museum to discuss possible exhibits and changes in our museum for the coming season. Mr. Prouty also introduced us to the upcoming History Expo 2000 in July at Tunbridge.

February 2000

An addition to the Society's "In Memory Of" scroll was requested by Joan Aleshire to include the name of her friend, Peggy Patten.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS: Stirling and Edna Klein.

The Sign Committee met with Todd Fillmore at the Butler's home and reached an agreement on designs submitted. The Treasurer met with the Development Review Board and received a permit to erect the sign.

March 2000

Master Plumbing and Heating, Inc. of Cuttingsville installed a new oil-fired furnace. It was discovered that most of the chimney would have to be rebuilt and that a stainless steel liner had to be installed. The Society also had a two-zone heating system installed.

The Museum Committee attended an Expo Workshop in Grafton and made plans to dedicate our booth at Expo 2000 to the Pierces of North Shrewsbury.

April 2000

NEW LIFE MEMBERS: Marty and Lori Pinkowski.

In accordance with By-Law changes, the Annual Meeting of the Society was held on April 13, 2000, at which time new officers were named.

Eli Prouty met with the Museum Committee and helped move exhibits and made suggestions as to how to display artifacts.

May 2000

The SHS Museum brochures were completed for the museum. Some were taken to local bed and breakfasts, and to the Rutland Chamber of Commerce.

The Museum sign was erected in front of the museum on May 13th.

On May 20th, the Fund Raising Committee, Gloria Benson and Ann Ridlon, and volunteers from the society,

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(Gifts to SHS continued)

record Pettee/Ridlon, information on Bertrand/Piccard family, copy of Harry C. Ridlon's memories of Cuttingsville.

Edna Martyn, Cuttingsville: Dr. Herbert Martyn's black leather medicine case.

John E. Poore, Rutland: Empire mantel clock, ca. 1830 made by Henry Smith, Plymouth, CT. from the John Russell house, CCC picnic area, Northam, whimsey made by Clarence Poore of Northam, Josiah Poore's shoe stretcher, red wooden wheelbarrow used by Clarence Poore, Shaker-style box w/Nathaniel Russell's cufflinks (Revolutionary War Vet.), Clarence Poore's slate, Northam School.

Ellen B. Russell, Rutland: receipt for subscription to Vermont Tribune, Ludlow, Charles C. Russell.

Larry Carrara, Shrewsbury: Iron garden cultivator w/wheel, copy of his book, "A Moose for Jessica."

Alan Ridlon, Sr., Cuttingsville: Etta Ridlon's Life Membership in The Order of the Eastern Star, WW I eight silk handkerchiefs sent from France to Alta Ridlon (Young) from Lt. Harold Young, photo of Lt. Young w/WW 1 I.D. and Victory Medal, Sadie Ridlon Hamilton's 2 commemorative Postal Medals.

Shirley Crossman Tinker, Rutland: photos Shirley Jane Crossman ca. 1925, Gertrude and Percy Crossman, Waite house, Cuttingsville (now Clarke), Addie Diantha Waite and Warren Waite, Addie & Henry Crossman, Frank Waite, salt & peppers, Christmas candy container, wooden tree box, straw napkin ring (Abenaki?), silver-plated napkin ring, ladies jack knife, gold watch chain and stick pin, Crossman baby book, Tennyson's Birthday Book, wood & brass ruler, iron calipers, letter opener, sugar bag, small adze, telephone tool, toothed hoe, potato fork, furnace tool, WW I mementoes, 6 postcards, Percy Crossman to his mother, 2 silk handkerchiefs, miniature French sabot, 3 obits Crossman and Waite families.

Plans for the Future

The Society plans to have the church exterior painted in the summer of 2001, and we hope to have the building insulated to save on heating costs..

Participation in History Expo 2001 to be held in Tunbridge, June 23 and 24, 2001.

Did You Know?

That the Shrewsbury Historical Society Museum can be found on two World Wide Web sites? Click on:

www.vmga.org/rutland/shrewhs.html – and –
www.state.vt.us/vhs/lhs/rutland.htm

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership in the Society extends over the calendar year. Year 2001 dues are payable in January.

Membership dues are:

Individual \$10 Contributing \$30
Family \$15 Life, Individual/Couple \$125

Please remit to:

Shrewsbury Historical Society, Inc.
2568 Lincoln Hill Road
Shrewsbury, VT 05738

(May Calendar continued)

held a "Plant and Bake Sale" on the lawn in front of the museum, realizing a profit of \$831.25.

The Museum Committee prepared the museum area for the Shrewsbury Community Church Service to be held on Sunday, May 28th, in accordance with agreement between the SHS and Community Church.

Society members Bud Clark, Richard Bettelli, Al Ridlon, Sr., and John Elwert volunteered to keep the grass cut around the building for the summer.

June 2000

The SHS Museum Committee loaned children's artifacts for a temporary display in the new memorial case that was dedicated at Mill River High School.

On June 14th, the Ladies Club of Shrewsbury planted a flowering crab apple tree on the front lawn of the Shrewsbury Society's Museum.

On June 17 and 18, the SHS joined many other historical societies at the Vermont History Expo 2000 held at Tunbridge. Our theme: "Good Vermonters, The Pierces of North Shrewsbury."

And at this time both the Museum and House Committees and members were busy building shelves and platforms, painting, wallpapering and preparing the museum itself for its opening on June 24 and 25. The center exhibit was dedicated to former Shrewsbury resident, Dick Johnson, author, hybridizer of day lilies.

July 2000

The SHS welcomed Jennifer Nicoll, a summer intern from Canada, through the auspices of the VMGA.

Jennifer worked with the Museum Committee for two days a week until the end of August. With her help and expertise, the committee inventoried all the artifacts in the museum itself. Work on the storage area was started before her term was up.

August 2000

On August 17th, Jennifer Nicoll invited the members to a slide show with before and after pictures of the work done at the museum.

September 2000

The SHS presented a program on "Witchcraft – Beliefs or Unbeliefs", given by speaker Lori Wilson at the Community Center on September 21.

October 2000

The Nominating Committee for a slate of officers for the year 2001 was appointed.

November 2000

A Board of Directors Meeting was held Nov. 2 at which time the President advised that we received a check to cover the cost of the paint for next year's project for the painting of the building from Donald and Patricia Oresman of our Town, for which we are very grateful. The Board met again on Nov. 17 to discuss conserving heat in the museum and the rising fuel costs.

December 2000

The House Committee installed much needed shelving in the storage room.

Coming Events

Informal Meeting at Lucille Fiske's home, Wednesday, January 3, 2001 at 7 PM, snow date Jan. 4th..
Annual Meeting, Thursday, April 12, 2001
Spring fund raiser, date to be set in May
Museum Opens, Sunday, July 1, 2001

In Memoriam

Two members of our Society have passed away this year. Frances Potter, a long-time member, died on August 22nd, and one of the Society's founders, and a Life Member, Emily Korngiebel, passed away on Nov. 6th. They will be sadly missed.

Shrewsbury Historical Society, Inc.

A Non-Profit Organization

5419 Route 103

Cuttingsville, Vermont 05738