



# Times Past

Shrewsbury Historical Society  
Newsletter

## *Vermont History Expo 2002 At Tunbridge Fairgrounds*

On June 22 and 23, 2002 at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds, the Shrewsbury Historical Society joined the ninety-five participating Historical Societies of Vermont in exhibiting the museum committee's chosen theme: "The Life and Loves of John P. Bowman." In a small partitioned area were four panels that held the many photos acquired of the Bowman family members and the prospectus of the well known mausoleum in the Laurel Glen Cemetery in Cuttingsville. The almost life-sized photo of the statue of John P. Bowman that stands in front of the mausoleum was the focal point of the exhibit. On a table in front rested a black top hat, complete with silk scarf, a stereoscope and stereoscopic slides of the mausoleum, and underfoot was displayed a beautiful black hooked rug, all testimony to the life of John P. Bowman in the late nineteenth century.



The museum committee decided to add this exhibit to the museum this summer for those who couldn't make the Expo.

## **ALL ABOARD!** *The Green Mountain Railroad*



This year the museum committee set up a center exhibit dedicated to the Green Mountain Railroad. John Elwert and son Nathaniel prepared a train board using their equipment, and museum committee member Fran Patten added miniature houses and farms, animals and people. The committee also collected and exhibited railroad paraphernalia and photographs, one of which was a photo of Grace Brigham's mural depicting the Cuttingsville R.R. station. The original mural hangs in Over Easy's. To complete the theme, a CD played the sounds of a clickety-clack railroad trip.

On October 6, the program committee presented Mary Ashcroft of Rutland who gave a slide show program about the Green Mountain Railroad in the museum. About 25 interested folks attended, and were greeted by a rousing chorus of "I've Been Working on the Railroad," played on a kazoo by an exuberant guest.

## *President's Note:*

This past year has been another busy one for our committee members. The fund-raising committee had the Bake and Garden Treasure Sale, and later the Tag Sale in September. Both events were successful and provided monies for the maintenance of the building. The house committee saw to all the mowing of grass and plowing of snow and general upkeep.

The museum committee prepared an exhibit for the Vermont History Expo 2002 in Tunbridge in June, a new center exhibit in the museum featuring the Green Mountain Railroad., and the Program Committee presented a railroad program in October.

The genealogy requests have been numerous and Nancy Spencer has been kept busy, besides working on the complete overhaul of our records into a filing system.

The Historical Society is looking forward to providing a second exit/entrance with a ramp for the disabled, plus a storage shed in the back of the museum, as we are outgrowing our space in the storage room. We hope, too, to provide a security system and the installation of a badly-needed telephone.

I want to thank all the members for their care and attention.

Conrad Winkler

## *Annual Meeting 2002*

At the Annual Meeting held on April 11, 2002, the following officers were named: President, Conrad Winkler; Vice President, Bud Clark; Treasurer, John Elwert, and Secretary, Ruth Winkler. Trustees: 3 years, Lucille Fiske and Marty Pinkowski. The remaining trustees are: for 2 years, Fran Patten and Don Butler, and for 1 year, Richard Wiedmann and Al Ridlon, Sr.

### **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Society membership extends over the calendar year.

Year 2003 membership dues are:

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

*Please remit to:*

Shrewsbury Historical Society, Inc.

*(A Non-Profit Organization)*

c/o John Elwert

499 Shunpike Road

Cuttingville, VT 05738

## MARJORIE PIERCE'S BEQUEST

In March of 2002, the Shrewsbury Historical Society received a check in amount of \$25,000 from the estate of Marjorie A. Pierce, for which the Society is most grateful. This generous gift will enable the Society to provide a second entrance with a ramp for the disabled.

Marjorie, a Life Member and an Honorary Trustee, was the Society's greatest champion. She enjoyed the museum, adding many of her treasures for our exhibits. And one of the most treasured is her grandmother's wedding dress. Everyone in Shrewsbury remembers Marjorie dressing up in this gown for all the special occasions in Town.

## *Standing Committees 2002*

**House:** Co-chairmen John Elwert and Marty Pinkowski, Al Ridlon, Sr., Bud Clark and Richard Bettelli. **Museum:** Chair Fran Patten, Ruth Winkler and Lucille Fiske. **Genealogy:** Nancy Spencer. **Video Interviews:** Con and Ruth Winkler. **Program:** Chair Fran Patten, Al Ridlon, Sr., Richard Wiedmann and Lucille Fiske. **Current History Scrapbook:** Con Winkler. **Refreshments:** Chris Wiedmann. **Publicity:** Don Butler. **Fund Raising:** Chair Ann Ridlon, Al Ridlon, Sr., Gloria Benson and Chris Wiedmann. **Photographer:** Richard Wiedmann.

## *New Life Members, 2002*

John and Pamela Elwert, Barry and Barbara Griffith, Robert and Judith Landon, Edward and Diane Schmults, all of Shrewsbury. Also, Sam and Grace Husselman of North Carolina.

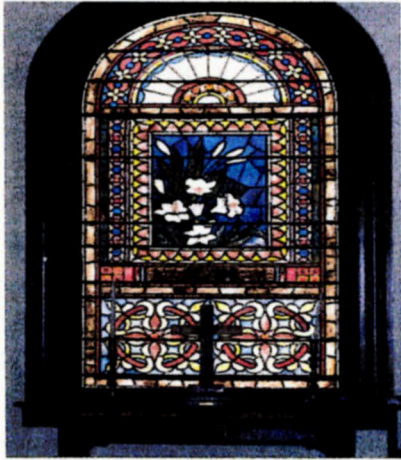
## *By-Law Changes*

On November 12, 2002, the last meeting of the year, the SHS members voted in favor of the following changes:

Article VI Meetings - Sec. 1 - The annual meeting of the Society shall be held on the third Wednesday in April (instead of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in April).

Article VI Meetings - Sec. 2 - Schedule and Quorum for meetings: 1) Meetings of the membership shall be held at least four (4) times a year. Seven members shall constitute a quorum (instead of ten members).

## Stained Glass Window



The stained glass window that graces the altar in the Shrewsbury Historical Society Museum, was given ca. 1888, in memory of Dorinda Harvey Foster, 1810-1875, (wife of Tyler Gilman Foster), and George Wellington Foster, 1840-1888, their son, both of Cuttingsville. Both are buried in Laurel Glen Cemetery. The window was given by Charles Harvey Foster, son and brother of the two people memorialized.

Tyler Gilman Foster owned and operated a wagon shop in Cuttingsville, using the water power from the canal that ran through a mill, to form the spokes and wheels.

George Wellington Foster was a Civil War veteran, and when he returned, he ran the brick store in Cuttingsville, and died during the flu epidemic.

Charles Harvey Foster, George's younger brother, ran a shoe manufacturing business in Brockton, Mass. He was a benefactor of and influential in the renovation of the church building.

## In Memoriam

*Frances Brigham*, a founding member, died on January 11, 2002. Fran will always be remembered for her beautiful gardens, and her generous sharing of the flowers for all festivities held in our town.

*Sam Husselman*, a Life Member, died on March 6, 2002, in North Carolina. Sam and his wife, Grace, were co-presidents of the Society in 1987-88. The Husselmans owned and operated The Buckmaster Inn in town for many years.

*Angelica Peale Allan*, a Life Member, died in April, 2002. Angelica was Joan Aleshire's mother, who enjoyed visiting the museum and was a special guest on our opening day in our new museum building.

## Gifts to SHS, Oct. 2001 to Oct. 2002

**Anne F. Spencer**, Shrewsbury: two stereoscopic slides showing two scenes inside the Bowman mansion; books, "Guide to Wood Heat" by Dirk Thomas, "Reading the Forested Landscape from Wilderness to Fortress" by Tom Wessels, "A Handbook of Vermont Trees" by Burns & Otis, and two volumes of Elf Programs in Shrewsbury Schools.

**Dawn Hance**, Rutland: Copies of four letters and obit, newspaper article and six computer image photographs, all dated in the 1800's.

**Gloria Benson**, Cuttingsville: two copies of Dawn Hance's "Shrewsbury, Our Town As It Was."

**Shirley and Neal Tinker**, Rutland: five photographs and one genealogy, Crossman. Plus many WW II souvenirs sent from Neal to Shirley from Panama, San Diego and Japan, Neal's handmade shell necklace and bracelet, steel bracelet and ring made aboard ship, "General Omar Bundy", a troop transport, serving in 1944-46, mostly in Pacific theater. Plus Neal's honorable discharge pin, uniform emblems, and photographs.

**Marilyn Dalick**, Shrewsbury: two photographs of Haley's barns and one of Pierce's store with Gordon Pierce, one photograph of Kinsman stones in Shrewsbury Center Cemetery, and two photos of individual Kinsman stones.

**Joanne Smith**: Shrewsbury: one copy of Vol. 3, "Poems - Prose & Lyrical Musings, 1995-96" by Clint Fiske. Copy of Shrewsbury Phone Book 1989. Certificate of Election of Representative in the General Assembly Shrewsbury 1942, Certificate of Votes for Senators from the Town of Shrewsbury 1942, United Farmers of New England Inc. One share Common Voter Stock Chandler and/or Joanne Smith, with cover letter from Clayton G. Parker, Atty., Transfer Agent, Ford Service Policy J.C. Stewart & Son to Chandler F. Smith (1947), Certificate for one share Wallingford Crop Frozen Foods Inc. Mr. & Mrs. Chan Smith (1947).

**Susan Wilmott**, East Dummerston, VT.: Xerox copy of a letter from Lucinda Maynard of Cuttingsville to her son, Nathaniel F. Maynard in New York City, dated Aug. 28, 1838.

**Patricia and Donald Oresman**, New York City: Booklet, Patricia & Donald Oresman compilers, "I Hate Quotations. Tell Me What You Know," 2001.

(Continued on Page Five)

## Calendar Notes

*December 31, 2001*

At the stroke of midnight, several Society members had the honor of ringing in the year 2002 by pulling the bell rope to the tower of the museum. One of the couples were married the following day – when wedding bells rang!

*January 2002*

The SHS applied to the Town of Shrewsbury with a request of \$2000 for help in maintaining and operating the museum. Request was approved in March by Shrewsbury voters.

The Program Committee met to discuss plans for programs in the museum for the coming year.

*February 2002*

Addition to "In Memory Scroll" requested by Charles and Wilda Davis in honor of Frances Brigham.

*March 2002*

Updated information on our Society was sent to Vermont Historical Society.

The Shrewsbury Historical Society received a generous bequest from the estate of Marjorie A. Pierce.

*April 2002*

Annual Meeting held April 11, 2002. New officers and trustees were voted into office.

Updated information sent to Vt. Historical Society magazine, "InContext", for the July column called "Postings."

*May 2002*

On May 18, a snowy, windy and cold day, the Fund Raising Committee held a Spring Bake and Garden Treasure Sale on the lawn of the museum. Moneys realized from the sale came to over \$600. The committee received donations of flowers and bushes from Mr. Twitters, Okemo Valley Gardens, Joe's Landscaping, Rutland Agway, P.J. Bushey, and Garden Time, plus a wrought iron wheelbarrow from Vermont Industries. The Society appreciated the tent borrowed from the Shrewsbury Vol. Fire Dept., which helped keep us warm and dry.

The 6<sup>th</sup> graders of Mountain School sent the Society a thank you for their trip to Billings Farm in Woodstock, which the Society sponsored.

*June 2002*

The museum opened for this season on June 29 and

30. This year's center exhibit dedicated to the Green Mountain Railroad.

The museum committee also was busy preparing an exhibit for the June 21 & 22 Vermont History Expo 2002 held at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds.

*July 2002*

Member Gloria Benson donated two copies of the book, "Shrewsbury, Our Town As It Was" by Dawn Hance. The Society decided to keep one and to sell one. It was offered to our townspeople in the July issue of the Times of Shrewsbury, for \$50. The book sold the day that issue was mailed out to the town.

Through our visitors and mail, the Society's Genealogy chair Nancy Spencer, has been very busy fulfilling requests. Nancy also received questionnaire from the Vermont State Committee for the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C., requesting names of women artists from the Town of Shrewsbury. Suggestions given were the two oils painted by a member of the Huntoon family of Cuttingsville, the shadow box of figurines of Town Board members by Doris Erb, and Grace Brigham's mural of the Cuttingsville Railroad Station.

Nancy also received from Middlebury College, taped recordings of Marjorie Pierce's mother singing folk songs, for which the Society is most grateful.

The President, Con Winkler, filed the original Quit Claim Deed between the Shrewsbury Community Church and the Historical Society for the Cuttingsville Church building, with the Town Clerk's Office.

The Society has been given old newspapers from members and friends, and the Current History chair Con Winkler read through each paper, some dating back to the Civil War, to find anything pertaining to Shrewsbury, which he copied onto archival paper and then added to scrapbooks for that purpose.

*September 2002*

The Society joined the Library's Town Wide Tag Sale on Saturday, Sept. 21, on the lawn of the museum. Over \$400 was realized from the sale and the fund raising committee was most grateful for members donating their items.

*October 2002*

On October 6, the program committee presented Mary Ashcroft of Rutland who gave a slide show program about the Green Mountain Railroad in the museum.

**GIFTS** from page Three

**John Van Hoesen**, Cuttingsville: CD, VPR News, "Moose Population," Van Hoesen reporting, air date, Oct. 22, 2001; ca. 1920 hanging wall light used in hallway of Huntoon House; 12' long stick w/grooves, found in barn.

**Viola Parker**, Shrewsbury: framed note card designed by Grace Brigham of Cuttingsville.

**Barbara and Barry Griffith**, Shrewsbury: two copies of Rutland newspapers of the 1920's covering 1927 flood plus other clippings.

**Ed Cook**, Cuttingsville: Large drawing of map showing water supply directed to Cuttingsville RR station for use by locomotives.

**Tom Tomlinson**, Shrewsbury: Eight posters, Rutland RR Co. Excursion to Lake Champlain in 1927 and 1930; four telegram blanks for Rutland Railroad and Western Union.

**Ann Vanneman**, Shrewsbury: From Ted Hinckley: flour, grain and burlap bags, milking stool, cavalry Norwich Univ. riding britches, riding boots, boot jack,

shoeshine stool, blackboard eraser and chalk tray, shoe lasts and stands, ice skates, and an oxen yoke with large metal ring. Also a woven-seat chair.

**Lloyd Potter**, Cuttingsville: Book, "Vermont - Its Government, 1927-1928" and a postcard showing Kelly residence on Route 103, in a July 1, 1971 First Day of Issue envelope.

**Richard Harrison**, Ludlow: three Union House Registers, dated late 1800's.

**Regina Stewart**, Cuttingsville: one copy of Annual Report of Town dated 1937, owned by Wallace Ross, plus a collection of letters, and bills, ca. 1800 & 1925.

**George Richards**, Cuttingsville: Copies of 1927 newspapers.

**Anne Spencer**: Shrewsbury, five copies "Laudes Domini" ca. 1890 Hymnals "Property of the Christian Church, N. Shrewsbury." Copies of photographs from the Pierce house, photos of Northam Church, plus two Northam Church postcards, copied from originals in Pierce house.

(Continued on page Six)

---

## SHREWSBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 2003 Annual Dues Request

The Shrewsbury Historical Society cannot achieve its goals in preserving our town's history for future generations without the support of a large number of townspeople and friends. Please be a part of our Society by renewing your membership, or by becoming a new member. If you are unable to attend the meetings, your financial support would be most appreciated.

The Annual Meeting and election of officers will take place on Wednesday evening, April 16, 2003 at 7 P.M. at the museum on Route 103 in Cuttingsville.

---

### 2003 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please fill out this form and mail it with your check payable to the Shrewsbury Historical Society, Inc., c/o John Elwert, 499 Shunpike Rd., Cuttingsville, VT 05738.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \$ 10

Family \$ 15

Contributing \$30

Life (Individual/Couple) \$125

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Dues and donations are tax deductible.

## GIFTS from Page Five

**Shirley Tinker**, Rutland: Pioneer Community Song Sheet (Florence Crossman), dried flowers from funeral bouquets for Addie Crossman (1939), song leaflet, obituaries for Earl Gilbert and Anna Osbourne. Three photos of Percy Crossman and Gertrude Crossman; Certificate of Gratitude for Percy Crossman's service in WW I from White House, signed by President Johnson, 1966; Crossman letters and an Arbuckle Sugar bag.

**Ann Page**, Shrewsbury: Booklets, abstracts from the Shrewsbury Christian Church (Northam) and Shrewsbury Advent Church (Cold River).

**Ann Vanneman**, Shrewsbury: various medicines, incl. horse medicine, 2 jars pork rind for game fish and a bottle of Evening in Paris Eau de Toilette.

**Ann Haley**, Shrewsbury: photograph of Herbert Haley and his cows. Herbert was one of two Shrewsbury folk singers recorded by Mrs. Helen Hartness Flanders.

**Anne Spencer**, Shrewsbury: copies of photographs of Mrs. Herbert Haley and letters written by Mrs. Haley to Mrs. Helen Hartness Flanders re: Herbert Haley, recorded by Mrs. Flanders, and a CD of folk songs sung by Gertrude Pierce and Herbert Haley recorded by

Mrs. Flanders, from the Music Library, Center for the Arts, Middlebury College..

**Luisa Spencer Finberg**, East Berkshire, Vermont: a crank wall telephone.

---

## CALENDAR from Page Four

### *November 2002*

The video committee taped the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Department on Nov. 2 at the Shrewsbury Meeting House.

The festivities opened with Bill Smith's recollection of the first meeting of the SVFD in 1951. Charter members David Bellany, Al Ridlon, Sr., and George Richards were recognized. Chief Bob Snarski led the Pledge of Allegiance, Dept. Chaplain Jim Coton conducted the invocation, and Heidi Mitchell played "America" on the piano. MC Eldred French introduced firefighters from each decade of the department's history who reminisced about their days in the department.

The hall was decorated with SVFD awards, trophies, apparatus old and new, and memorabilia from its history.

---

**Shrewsbury Historical Society, Inc.**  
5419 Route 103  
Cuttingsville, Vermont 05738