



Times Past

Shrewsbury Historical Society
Newsletter

Memorials for Local Heros



Shown above is a photograph of the large memorial stone and affixed plaque which is placed directly in front of the Shrewsbury Historical Society Museum. Dedicated on May 31, 1919, the plaque reads: "George Wallace Foster, Age 24 Years, 1st Lieut. Co. D 101st Inf. 2d Div., Killed in Action in Argonne Forest, October 25, 1918. This tablet is erected by the citizens of his home town in recognition of his valiant service and heroic death in the cause of humanity."

Member Ed Cook and his brother, George, both nephews of the young man honored, relates that George Wellington Foster, George Wallace Foster's grandfather, owned and operated the Brick Store in Cuttingsville from 1871 to 1888. He was a Civil War veteran, surviving the Battle of Gettysburg. George Wallace Foster's father, Fred, took over the store in 1888 until 1927. In 1897, Fred O. Foster was appointed Postmaster. The Foster home, which was located across the road, burned in 1903 along with the Stewart's store and the Union Hotel. George Wallace Foster had been attending the University of Vermont and left to join the army during World War I.

Under the large spruce tree in front of the museum, there are two small memorial stones placed there many years later, honoring two young men who were killed during World War II. They read: "Pvt. Francis Lewis Trombley, Killed in Action Dec. 10, 1944 in France" and "Raymond Richard Geehan, Gunners Mate 3rd Class, USN."

Small American flags and seasonal flowers adorn the memorial stones in honor of these three brave young men of Cuttingsville, who died in the service of their country.

President's Note:

During the past year the Shrewsbury Historical Society has accomplished a great deal for our community.

Scrapbooks of newspaper articles about our town are available from 1880s to present day. Genealogical research has been helpful to folks with Shrewsbury connections. In order to preserve the artifacts, new shades have been installed in five museum windows.

The Program Committee presented a One-Room Schoolhouse Reunion of former students, many from the 1930s. The audience enjoyed hearing the recollections which were recorded on video and are available at the Historical Society.

The Fund Raising Committee raised monies for the maintenance of the museum with two very successful events: the Spring Bake and Plant Sale and the Autumn Festival. The Quilt Show was a success and created a great deal of interest. Some of the quilts dated back to the 1700s.

I wish to thank all who supported our organization and all members who donated their time and money for the preservation of our history.

Al Ridlon, Sr.

Annual Meeting 2003

At the Annual Meeting held on April 16, 2003, the following officers were named: President, Al Ridlon, Sr.; Vice President, Bud Clark; Treasurer, John Elwert; and Secretary, Ruth Winkler. Trustees: 3 years, Conrad Winkler and Richard Wiedmann. The remaining trustees are: for 2 years, Lucille Fiske and Marty Pinkowski, and for 1 year, Fran Patten and Don Butler.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Society membership extends over the calendar year.

Year 2004 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

Cuttingsville, VT 05738

Gifts to SHS, Oct. 2002 to Oct. 2003

Anne F. Spencer, Shrewsbury: Copies of photographs from the Pierce house and Northam Church.

Shirley and Neal Tinker, Rutland: family memorabilia plus photographs from World War II.

Anne F. Spencer, Shrewsbury: Book, "The Battered Stars" by Howard Coffin.

Morris G. Tucker, Center Rutland: Item copied from March 1, 1888 Rutland Weekly Herald on Mrs. Mary Russell Wright of Northam.

Estate of Elaine Raleigh Parker, E. Wallingford: an inscribed Perspective entitled "Laurel Glen Mausoleum" by G.B. Croff, architect. Booklet entitled "John P. Bowman - Laurel Hall." Brochure entitled "The Haunted Mansion Bookshop." Several newspaper articles.

Anne F. Spencer, Shrewsbury: Colored postcard from Apostle Islands, Wisc., sent to "Miss Marjorie Pierce, RFD 2, Cuttingsville, Vt." from West Bridgewater, Vt. Jan. 30, 1916.

Martha C. Layton, Deed from Simon Stephens of Springfield, Vt. to Benjamin Needham, Jr. of Shrewsbury for ca. 12 acres of land, 11th March 1811.

Anne Sarcka, Montpelier, Vt.: Copy of Testimonial approx. 21" x 24" honoring Ray Sirjane.

George Richards, Cuttingsville, Vt.: "Richards Service Station" receipt book, est. 1950.

Priscilla Backman, N. Calais, Vt.: Manuscript-article "Vermont Co-Operators 1848-1865", (includes material re: the coop store in Cuttingsville and photograph).

Donald and Patricia Oresman, New York City: booklet, "A Book is a mirror. When a monkey looks in, no apostle can look out."

David Rice, N. Shrewsbury: Music Book for Playing the Pipe Organ, 1875. "Sharps and Flats" for singing schools and conventions book, 1899, paper book.

Lewis David Bellany, Rutland: Adelno W. Bellany's violin and bow with extra strings, etc., in black wood case. Photographs, postcards and memorabilia.

Grace Brigham, Cuttingsville: A handmade wood toy Express Wagon, approx. 100 years old, replicating delivery wagon from railroad station.

Shirley Tinker, Rutland: Sheet music, various books, WW II cookbook, locket with photos, memorabilia.

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One-Room Schoolhouse Program



Former Cuttingsville students reminisce. L-R, John C. Stewart, Ann Sarcka, DeeDee Erb and Clayton J. Stewart.

The Program Committee presented a One-Room Schoolhouse Reunion at the Shrewsbury Community Center on August 23, 2003. Through much research, the Committee was able to procure names and addresses of many former students.

President Al Ridlon opened the proceedings with the ringing of the special teachers' bells. Moderator Eldred French invited groups of the 38 former students to the front of the large audience to share their memories, some poignant, some comical and most of all, entertaining. Photo albums of all the schoolhouses showing students and their teachers, was a popular exhibit. The video committee filmed the proceedings and the tape is available at the museum for home viewing.

Center Exhibit in Museum

In keeping with the program that was planned for August, the Museum Committee prepared an exhibit for the center of the museum this season, that replicates a one-room schoolhouse, which included a teacher's desk, two children's desks and a young student with books under her arm, and a huge bow in her hair. This exhibit will be a permanent one in the museum, together with the photograph albums of the former Shrewsbury schoolhouses and of the guests who attended the program in August. Of special interest is a framed scroll signed by the former students, under a drawing of the Cuttingsville Schoolhouse by member Grace Brigham.

2003 Fund Raising Projects

PLANT AND BAKE SALE

On May 24, the Fund Raising Committee held a successful Plant and Bake Sale on the lawn of the museum. The beautiful donated flowering baskets and plantings from Shrewsbury gardens were all sold. Delicious home-baked goodies disappeared fast.

Warm jackets and hats were the clothes code of the day due to the rain and wind. Thanks to the SVFD, the volunteers and customers found it warm and dry under the special tent.

AUTUMN FESTIVAL

The Fund Raising and Program Committees combined to produce the Autumn Festival held at the Shrewsbury Community Center on October 11, 2003. It was a warm, glorious fall day and our visitors enjoyed "everything apple or pumpkin". There were gourds and pumpkins from Shrewsbury gardens, plus wreaths and bouquets of dried artemisia and apples in baskets – all displayed in a huge open cart. Inside a table held the home baked goodies, and the aroma of freshly fried apple fritters permeated the hall.



Just a few of the many quilts on display.

Member Lucille Fiske exhibited many beautiful quilts, much to the delight of all the visitors, who also enjoyed shopping in the "attic treasure corner" and choosing note cards and matted photographs displayed by member Richard Wiedmann.

All proceeds from the Fund Raising Projects go towards the maintenance of the museum building.

Calendar Notes

January 2003

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.

Mailed copy of video tape of Shrewsbury Volunteer Firemen's 50th Anniversary celebration held Nov. 2, 2002, to State Senator Hull Maynard.

February 2003

Updated information sent to Vt. Historical Society magazine, "InContext", for the spring edition of "Postings," which was subsequently printed.

Mailed copy of video tape of Shrewsbury Volunteer Firemen's 50th Anniversary celebration held Nov. 2, 2002, to U.S. Senator James Jeffords.

March 2003

Received and filed reminiscences of Shrewsbury Volunteer Firemen's earliest days written by Bill Smith.

April 2003

Answered questions from Vt. Historical Society re: membership.

Annual Meeting held April 16, 2003. New officers and trustees were voted into office.

The Shrewsbury Historical Society received a \$1000 bequest from the estate of Olaf Johnson.

The Program Committee met to discuss plans for a one-room schoolhouse reunion to be held in August.

May 2003

On May 24, the Fund Raising Committee held a successful Plant and Bake Sale on the lawn of the museum. Moneys realized from the sale came to almost \$500. The committee received donations of flowers from Okemo Valley Gardens, Rutland Agway and Bushey's. The SVFD tent was much appreciated, as well as all the home-baked goodies from members and friends.

Received inquiries from Helen Lorenz of California re: gravesite of ancestors. Located in South Flats Cemetery in Clarendon, Ms. Lorenz and daughter flew east to visit the site and also to visit our museum.

June 2003

The Museum Committee prepared center exhibit in museum of a one-room school house showing teacher and pupil's desks, books, photos of the schoolhouses of Shrewsbury and a pretty little girl student manikin.

July 2003

The museum opened for this season on July 5 and 6. Refreshments were served both days. The Society decided to change the opening time on Saturdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m., and Sundays from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

August 2003

Five windows of the museum were outfitted with new room darkening shades. In front of the museum, plantings of small evergreens and annual flowers graced the memorial rock and the museum sign.

On August 23, the One-Room Schoolhouse Reunion Program was held at the Community Center. Approximately 38 former students of Cuttingsville, Shrewsbury Center, Northam, Cold River, Eastham and Russellville schools regaled a large audience with their reminiscences of school days from the 1930's to the 1950's. This program was taped and is now part of the museum's video library.

September 2003

The Program and Fund Raising Committees busy planning for the Autumn Festival next month.

October 2003

On October 11, both Program and Fund Raising Committees presented an "Autumn Festival" at the Shrewsbury Community Center. The Program was a fine display of quilts given by Lucille Fiske. The Fund Raising consisted of "anything apple or pumpkin" and featured home baked goodies.

The Society had a plaque made to commemorate the deeding of the museum building to the Society from the Shrewsbury Community Church. This plaque will be hung in the museum.

November 2003

Addition to "In Memory Scroll" in honor of Doris Erb requested by: Alex Gratiot, Mary & Frank Williamson, Susan Beard, Ruth & Conrad Winkler, Anne F. Spencer, Caroline Miller, Collette Toussaint, Budgets Admin. for America's Gardening Resource, Inc., Beth Gilmore, Luisa & Chuck Finberg, Sam Spencer, Linda McGuire, William Hess, Jeanne Kendall Wilson, Town Adm. for Town of Hinesburg, Pamela & Peter Grace, Stephanie Spencer & Rolf Krelman, Joan Aleshire, Lynn McDermott, Spring Lake Ranch, Susan & Patrick Farrow, DeeDee & Peter Erb, Phyllis Wells and Mary Ellen Spiegel.

In Memoriam

Lloyd B. Potter, a Life Member, died on July 22, 2003. Lloyd retired from the Vermont State Police as a Major in 1977, after 30 years of service. He held various positions as a realtor, member of State Appraiser Board, security officer, Deputy Sheriff and as Investigator for the Office of the Secretary of State. He held positions with the Boy Scouts and was known for his love of outdoors and for his family.

Doris Erb, a long time member, died on October 19, 2003. Doris was a born artist and her beautiful portraits of some of our townspeople are permanently displayed at the Community Center. The Society is proud to display one of her shadow boxes in the museum. Doris also taught art to Shrewsbury students.

Robert J. Bennett, a long time member, died on October 27, 2003, after a long illness. Bob and his Betsyjune moved to Vermont in 1994 and became members of the Historical Society shortly thereafter. His love of history and our town made him the champion of our cause in every way.

Autumn Festival Fun



Society members L-R, Ann Ridlon, Chris Wiedmann, Nancy Spencer, Ruth Winkler, Lucille Fiske and President Al Ridlon, Sr., in front of cart displaying some of the Autumn Festival's locally grown produce sold at the fund raiser.

SHREWSBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 2004 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 21, 2004 at 7 P.M. at the museum on Route 103 in Cuttingsville.

2004 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 _____

Address _____

Phone _____

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

Dues and donations are tax deductible.

GIFTS from Page Two

Edith Fee Kelley, Rutland: photographs of Northam School students and of William H. Fee and Gordon Pierce and Henry Fee both at Pierce's store.

Ann Vanneman, Shrewsbury: 2 gallon Horlick's Malted Milk glass jars, a gallon canning jar and a Jenny Lee 1 lb. 3 oz. tin can.

Matthew A. Kierstead and others, Pawtucket, RI: Article "Copperas Manufacturing at South Stratford, VT., ca. 1809-1882."

Ellery R. Purdy, Rutland: 38 photographs of Aldrich family of Shrewsbury in many locations; 20 photos, mostly Shrewsbury people, and 88 photos of Aldrich family and friends in many locations. Mr Purdy's wife was an Aldrich.

Luisa S. Finberg, New York City: a parlor wood stove, and numerous household articles.

Peter Cooney, Wallingford: Book, "1917 Vt. Geology Record."

Donald Oresman, New York City: Booklet of sayings "Short Takes" 2003 and a copy of "Why Not Retire at 50" by Lew Taggett.

Fred Sargeant and John Van Hoesen, Cuttingsville: items found in the old Huntoon house, i.e., a small portion of a beam, small pieces of

clapboards and two tools found within the walls.

Conrad K. Winkler, Cuttingsville: Report by Ad Hoc Committee on solid waste and transfer station, 1986.

Professor Lyman Mower, Durham, N.H.: Book, "Ancestry of Annie Frances Penfield, (1853-1936), The Wife of Calvin Robinson Mower, (1840-1927)."

Standing Committees 2003

House: Chair John Elwert, Bud Clark, Richard Bettelli, Richard Wiedmann, and Al Ridlon, Sr.

Museum: Chair Fran Patten and Lucille Fiske.

Genealogy: Nancy Spencer. **Fund Raising:** Chair Chris

Wiedmann, Ann and Al Ridlon, Sr. **Program:** Chair

Fran Patten, Al Ridlon, Sr., Lucille Fiske, Nancy Spencer

and Richard Bettelli. **Publicity:** Don Butler. **Current**

History Scrapbook: Con Winkler. **Video Interviews:**

Chair Con Winkler and Ruth Winkler. **Photographer:**

Richard Wiedmann. **Refreshments:** Chris Wiedmann.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Shrewsbury Historical Society is listed on two web sites::

<http://vermonthistory.org> and www.vmg.org.

Scroll down listing of local historical societies in Rutland County and click on Shrewsbury.

Shrewsbury Historical Society, Inc.

5419 Route 103

Cuttingsville, Vermont 05738