



Times Past

Shrewsbury Historical Society
Newsletter

Town Meeting House Bicentennial



photo by Richard Wiedmann

The Jewel in the Crown of the Town of Shrewsbury.

On Sunday, November 21, 2004, the Shrewsbury Historical Society Program Committee co-chaired with the Shrewsbury Community Church Committee to present a program celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the Shrewsbury Meeting House.

The festivities began in the sanctuary with Eldred French as Master of Ceremonies introducing Mark Youngstrom, who spoke about the history of the Meeting House, and Pastor Chris Heintz, who spoke about the history of the Shrewsbury Community Church. Eldred then introduced Bill Smith who related stories about the recently restored Johnson Opus 235 pipe organ, B-J Stewart told stories of the 1973 flood, Marcos Levy spoke on the beauty of music and the many ways music was enjoyed in the Meeting House and Shrewsbury Historical Society President Al Ridlon,

Sr. spoke about the various ham suppers and events held for the Fire Department in the Meeting House.

Don Butler then spoke about the various exhibits being shown on both floors, and invited all to partake refreshments on the first floor.

A video station was set up by Con Winkler to record memories of the Town Meeting House by those who wished to comment. The Society thanks Paul Sgalia, Rene Pollock, Dick Adams, Nancy Spencer, Donna Smith, Jonathan Gibson, Grace Brigham, Sharon Winnicki, Don Butler, Dino Rice, Barry Griffith and Ruth Winkler for their memories, some of which follow:

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Robert Frost, NBC Visit Meeting House in 1957

NBC TV, Dave Garroway's "WIDE WIDE WORLD" visited Shrewsbury Center LIVE on Sunday, March 31, 1957.

Vermont's beloved poet, Robert Frost, then at 83, recited "Mending Walls" in the Town Meeting House sanctuary, and square dancing was held in the meeting room downstairs.

The program also visited Willard Smith's sugar bush and sugar house showing young Bill Smith helping his father in sugarin', and outside Robert Frost strolled along Lottery Road reciting "The Gift Outright", with the beautiful panoramic view behind him.

Standing in front of the signs with N. Shrewsbury pointing in one direction and Cuttingsville in the other, Frost said, "that's what you like about Vermont. A fella always knows where he's at."

President's Note:

During this past busy year the Shrewsbury Historical Society accomplished the following: a plaque was placed in the vestibule of the museum commemorating the acquisition of the building from the Community Church; reprinted 500 soft cover copies of the history book, "Shrewsbury, Vt - Our Town As It Was"; a telephone was installed in the storage area; applied for a matching grant from the Vt. Arts Council to build an earthen ramp and second exit/entrance to the museum; and had necessary roof slates replaced.

The Fund Raising Committee held two successful events, one in the spring and one in the fall. The Society was represented at the June Expo 2004 in Tunbridge with an exhibit on one-room schoolhouses. On July 3rd, the museum opened for the summer with an Open House and closed for the season on October 31st. The Program Committee co-hosted a program with the Community Church in celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the Town Hall/Meeting House held in November.

I want to thank the officers, trustees and committee members for all their hard work and dedication to the Historical Society.

Al Ridlon, Sr.
President

Officers and Trustees 2004

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| President | Alan Ridlon, Sr. |
| Vice President | Fran Patten |
| Treasurer | John Elwert |
| Secretary | Ruth Winkler |

Trustees

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Don Butler | Richard Bettelli |
| Conrad Winkler | Richard Wiedmann |
| Lucille Fiske | Marty Pinkowski |

Newsletter Editors

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|--|----------------|
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Shrewsbury Historical Society, Inc.

(A non-profit organization)

5419 Route 103
Cuttingsville, Vermont 05738
Telephone: 802-492-2175

Society Reprints Book "Our Town As It Was"

This year, the Shrewsbury Historical Society has had reprinted in soft-cover the book *Shrewsbury, Vermont - Our Town As It Was* by Dawn W. Hance. First printed in 1980, the hard-cover book had been sold out for some time and many requests facilitated the reprinting.

Priced at \$25 (\$20 for members), the books can be purchased at the Town Clerk's office on Cold River Road in Shrewsbury, Monday through Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Books may also be purchased by mail, adding \$4 postage for each book, and mailed to: John Elwert, 499 Shunpike Road, Cuttingsville, VT 05738.



OCTOBER 4, 1980. Ruth Winkler, clutching her copy of "Shrewsbury, Vermont - Our Town As It Was" standing next to antique car used in parade.

Shrewsbury's Bicentennial in 1980 Celebrated with Events and Book

Twenty-four years ago, Shrewsbury celebrated the 200th anniversary of the formal organization of the Town with special events such as an antique car parade complete with oxen and the Mill River High School Band, ending at the Town Meeting House. The President of the Historical Society Elliott Haynes spoke and introduced Representative James Jeffords. In the field, there was a Revolutionary War encampment and mock battle.

Inside the Town Meeting House, the Historical Society celebrated the publication of the town's first history book, *Shrewsbury, Vermont - Our Town As It Was*, with a book signing by author Dawn W. Hance. By nightfall, over 400 copies of the book were sold.

Calendar Notes for 2004

January

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.

E-mailed updated information to Vt. Historical Society magazine "InContext" for the spring edition of "Postings," which was subsequently printed.

February

Addition to "In Memory Of" Scroll in honor of Doris Erb, requested by Hull and Taffy Maynard.

Addition to "In Memory Of" Scroll in honor of Mitch Spencer, requested by Phyllis M. Smith.

March

Mailed Biennial Report Form Nonprofit Corporations to State of Vermont.

Addition to "In Memory Of" Scroll in honor of Bob Bennett, requested by Betsyjune Bennett.

SHS ordered 500 copies of "Shrewsbury, Vermont - Our Town As It Was" reprinted with soft cover, from Sharp Offset Printing, Rutland.

April

Updated information with Vermont Historical Society pertaining to "Passport to Vermont History" booklets which are given to museum visitors.

Annual Meeting held April 21st. New officers and trustees were voted into office.

May

On Saturday, May 22nd, the Fund Raising Committee held a successful Plant and Bake Sale on the lawn of the museum. The moneys raised came to over \$600. The committee received donations of flowers from Rutland Agway, Mr. Twitters, Bushey's, and Okemo Valley Gardens. SHS treasurer John Elwert donated handmade wrought iron plant hangers. The SVFD tent was much appreciated as well as all the home-baked goodies and cash donations from members and friends.

June

Fran Patten and Richard Bettelli designed and managed the SHS booth at Vermont History Expo 2004 held at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds on June 26 and 27.

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In Times Past Ash House Was A Necessity



Shrewsbury Ash House photo by Dick Adams

Member Dick Adams has been able to determine that the above Ash House is probably the only one remaining in Shrewsbury.

Many years ago, settlers used the ash house to store the ashes that provided the lye which in turn made the soap.

This house was fireproof constructed with a floor and roof comprised of single slabs of slate. The large maple tree behind it is an indication of the age of this building. In growing, it has pushed the roof forward and has started to displace the bricks.

Did You Know?

The Shrewsbury Historical Society is listed on two web sites:

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

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

Gifts to SHS, 2004

Pat Clark, N.J.: Town of Shrewsbury reports for 1942-43.

Donald Oresman, NYC: Booklet. "His title for a book he never wrote." Compiled by Patricia and Donald Oresman, 2003.

Joyce Barbieri, Wallingford: Letter and xeroxed section from "Sails, Steamships & Sea Captains," re: Capt. Robert C. Fay, supposedly of Cuttingsville, Vt.

Coleman H. Waite, OH: 2nd C.D. Waite Genealogy.

Ann Page, Shrewsbury and Cathy Habes, Ohio: Genealogy research of Shrewsbury residents.

Bill and Donna Smith, Shrewsbury: Two 19th century western style side saddles owned by members of the Smith family.

Kevin Graffagnino, Director, Vt. Historical Society, Barre, Vt.: Notice with dance card, "Annual May Party at The Union House, Cuttingsville . . ." dated May 13, 1892, unused.

Shrewsbury Library: Eight items found during renovations.

Prof. Lyman Mower, N.H.: Genealogy, "The Ancestry of Calvin Robinson Mower."

Bill Shufflebarger, Capitol Bldg., Harrisburg, Pa.: Papers re: career of Darwin Abel Finney.

Shrewsbury Historical Society: Purchase of book "The Taste of Spruce Gum" by Jacqueline Jackson of Shrewsbury.

Polly Haynes, Shrewsbury: A grain sifter, foot warmer and photo of Holly Johnson taken by Russell D. Holliger. Also two copper pots and a cheese box originally from Marjorie Pierce.

Sandra Avery, Ct.: Five postcards of Tip Top Inn, Shrewsbury. Ms. Avery was employed at the Inn in 1958 and earned \$15 per week.

Dan Eitapence, N.Y.: Two photos of Donald R. Eitapence's store in E. Wallingford. Copies of Donald Baker Eitapence's health notice in Rutland Herald and burial in Laurel Glen.

Mary Anne Christie, OH: Copies of seven photos of the Korzun family members. Copies of articles "Family of Anthony and Domicela Korzun Reunion" and Korzun descendants (Anna Korzun Burat and Antony Korzun).

Morris Tucker, Rutland: Rutland Herald articles: Sept. 1, 1932 obit. of Lewis Cass Needham; April 27, 1932 on Town Clerk E. O. Aldrich; Mar. 21, 1947 on Bischoff's candy-making business.

Opening Day



photo by Richard Wiedmann
MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE. On Saturday, July 3rd, the Historical Society officially opened for the 2004 season. Shown above, guests look through books on genealogy, while member Lucille Fiske works on a quilt square.

Dick Adams, Shrewsbury: Two pages of color photos of only known "ash house" in Shrewsbury, with a CD-R. Also, a CD-R of Olaf Johnson photographs of Shrewsbury.

Al Ridlon, Sr., Cuttingsville: "1985 Vermont Almanac & Government Guide, Business Edition".

Michael and Phyllis Wells, Cuttingsville: DVD on the 1973 flood.

Olive Haley, Shrewsbury: Framed photograph of her grandmother, Julia Plumley Balch, 1840-1901, wife of Daniel Balch.

Charlestown Historical Society, Charlestown, N.H.: Leather album containing ca. 1920 photos of Spring Lake Ranch, Cuttingsville, Mill River, and hiking on Killington Peak with a young Marjorie Pierce.

History Expo 2004



photo by Richard Bettelli
EXPO 2004. Member Fran Patten standing in front of SHS exhibit featuring one-room schoolhouses, held at Tunbridge Fair Grounds on June 26th and 27th.

Fall Fund Raiser



photo by Richard Wiedmann
FALL FOOD FEST. On October 16th, the Society held a bake sale featuring all things apple and pumpkin. Above, from left to right, Ruth Winkler, Chris Wiedmann, Ann Ridlon, Fran Patten and Al Ridlon, Sr.

In Memoriam

Grace Husselman, a Life Member. The Society received word of Grace's passing in February of this year, too late for the 2003 Newsletter. Grace died on November 3, 2003 in North Carolina. She was predeceased by husband Sam in 2002. They were co-presidents of the Society in 1987-88. The Husselmans owned and operated The Buckmaster Inn in Shrewsbury for many years.

Paul Anthony, a Life Member, died on October 24, 2004. Paul was an Engineering Consultant, a member of the Town's Planning Commission, and a talented musician who entertained with his cello at many Town of Shrewsbury events, among which were the Chamber Music Bicentennial Concert in the Town Hall in 1992, and the Historical Society's Victorian Christmas Tour of Laurel Hall in 1994.

Town Clerks' Photos



photo by Ruth Winkler
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE: Photos of all Shrewsbury Town Clerks are now in place atop a special town clerk's desk.

MEETING HOUSE from Page One

Paul spoke about Town Meeting Day and Arthur Patten; Rene remembered the time she started warming the stove in the kitchen of the Meeting House which ended up with a visit from the Fire Department; Nancy remembered her experience of singing in the choir next to Dr. Martyn, who was tone deaf and of the successful chicken pot pie dinners held by the Ladies Aid; Donna spoke about the National Guard stationed at the Town Meeting House and Maple Crest Inn during the flood of 1973 and the way the Fire Dept. Women's Auxiliary and Community Church Ladies Aid came together to feed the men at the Meeting House; Jonathan spoke about this past Election Day in the Meeting House when the Jeffords arrived too early to vote; Grace remembered all the Ladies Auxiliary events at the Meeting House of which her mother was a member and of their untiring efforts to decorate for every event; Sharon spoke about the important political figures and musicians who visited the Town Meeting House, the special sign that used to grace the front of the building which read "Spirit is Spoken Here", and the wonder of the Town Meeting Days; Don remembered that after he and Lois purchased the Shrewsbury Inn, they discovered that Shrewsbury was a "dry" town, that they then had to petition the town at the next Meeting Day; and Ruth recalled visiting the Town Meeting House in 1980 to purchase a copy of the Historical Society's book, "Shrewsbury, Vermont - Our Town As It Was" during the bicentennial celebration of the organization of the Town.

The tape showing the complete 200th Celebration of the Town Meeting House will be added to the archives of the Historical Society.

Dick Adams prepared a souvenir folder of the Meeting House Anniversary Celebration with an Appreciation page dedicated to Nancy Spencer, along with Meeting House history and selected photos.

The Society thanks co-chairs Fran Patten of the Historical Society and Rene Pollock of the Community Church, the Society's Program Committee consisting of Don Butler, Fran Patten, and Nancy Spencer; and to Ann Ridlon for the excellent refreshments. Also thank you to the following who prepared various exhibits: Donna Smith, Dino Rice, Phyllis Wells, Sharon Winnicki, Lily French, Connie Youngstrom, Pam Monder and Ginny Buckley.

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Meeting House Memories



photo by Dick Adams
Al Ridlon, Sr., speaking at the 200th Anniversary of the Meeting House, remembering Ham Suppers held here by members of the Volunteer Fire Department.



photo by Dick Adams
Audience listening to more reminiscences about the Town Meeting House. In the background the recently restored Johnson Opus 235 Pipe Organ gleams.

Standing Committees 2004

House: Chair John Elwert, Bud Clark, Richard Bettelli and Richard Wiedmann. **Museum:** Ruth Winkler, Lucille Fiske, Fran Patten and Richard Bettelli. **Genealogy:** Nancy Spencer. **Fund Raising:** Chair Chris Wiedmann, Ann and Al Ridlon, Sr. **Program:** Chair Don Butler, Fran Patten, Richard Bettelli, Lucille Fiske, Nancy Spencer and Betsy Bennett. **Public Relations:** Ruth Winkler. **Current History Scrapbook:** Conrad Winkler. **Video Interviews:** Chair Con Winkler and Ruth Winkler. **Photographer:** Richard Wiedmann. **Refreshments:** Chris Wiedmann.

Spring Fund Raiser



photo by Richard Wiedmann
PLANT AND BAKE SALE. On May 22nd, the Shrewsbury Historical Society held their annual spring fund-raiser. Member Ruth Winkler points out plant goodies to Gracie Brigham, as Ann Ridlon looks on.

Atop of Killington in 1920



The photo above was found in an album donated to the SHS by the Charlestown, N.H. Historical Society. The hand written caption reads: "The party that ascended Killington, October, 1920. On the very top of the peak. Front row, left to right, Marjorie Pierce, Emily Wetherby, Mrs. Smith, Kenneth Cutter. Back row, l. to r., John Barber, Rob Peters, George Smith, Derward Smith, Edmund Tebordo."

SHREWSBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 2005 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 20, 2005 at 7 P.M. at the museum on Route 103 in Cuttingsville.

2005 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.

CALENDAR from Page Three

Updated information about SHS on Vermont Historical Society website and the Vermont Museum and Galleries Assoc. website.

The museum committee prepared new exhibits, namely the twin 19th century western style side saddles donated by Bill and Donna Smith, and the violin and photographs of Adelno Wilham Bellany donated by Lewis D. Bellany.

July

The museum opened for the season at an Open House held on Saturday, July 3rd. The refreshment committee provided delicious cookies and punch, and the visitors enjoyed the new exhibits and introduction to the reprinted history book. The museum hours this year were Sundays only from 1 to 3 p.m.

August

The House Committee completed measurements for proposed new exit and ramp in back of building and are ready to send out applications for bidding.

The Program Committee began plans for proposed exhibits at Town Meeting House's 200th anniversary celebration on Sunday, November 21st.

September

A telephone was installed in the museum's storage area. The number is (802) 492-2175.

October

On October 4th, the application was mailed for a grant from the Vermont Arts Council for the proposed new exit/entrance and earthen ramp.

On October 16th, the Fund Raising Committee held a Fall Food Fest on the lawn of the museum. The Society realized just over \$360 which goes towards to the maintenance of the museum. Many thanks to Judy and Red Landon for the fall decorations and to the SVFD for the use of the tent as it was a cold and windy day.

November

Approximately 23 new slates were replaced on the museum building's roof.

Historical Society co-sponsored program with the Community Church at Town Meeting House's 200th anniversary celebration on Nov. 21.

December

Dec. 24: SHS informed that matching grant of \$4638 was approved by Vt. Arts Council for second exit/entrance, earthen ramp and landing.

Shrewsbury Historical Society, Inc.

5419 Route 103

Cuttingsville, Vermont 05738