



Times Past

Shrewsbury Historical Society
Newsletter

SHS Museum Now ADA Compliant



Earthen ramp under construction.

During the fall and winter of 2005 the Shrewsbury Historical Society had a handicap-accessible earthen ramp, landing and second exit/entrance to the museum added on the rear of the building.

A graveled parking area for handicap parking has also been added which leads to the horseshoe-shaped earthen ramp, making the museum ADA compliant.

The installation of the ramp and exit/entrance makes the museum available to all but also makes it safer in case of an emergency.

A small part of the sanctuary floor had to be removed to make a 4' wide passageway level with the existing floor. In removing the floor, a wooden box top was found with the words "Sundries - F. O. Fosters, Cuttingsville" stenciled on it which may have been used as a shim when the church was renovated in 1890.

Al Ridlon Builder Inc. of Cuttingsville was awarded the bid for the projects. The firm is known for their quality workmanship and has recently worked on Marjorie Pierce's house for the Preservation Trust of Vermont.

Quest for Genealogy

The year 2005 was a busy one for our genealogist, Nancy Spencer. With the availability of the Internet, people from far and wide have been able to search out their roots.

Wendy Kuntz, who resides in Hawaii, contacted the Society for information as to the burial site of her ancestor, a Revolutionary War soldier, who had lived in Shrewsbury, named Samuel Low. By researching the books the Society has on our local cemeteries, it was found that Samuel Low and his wife, Abigail, were indeed buried in the Center Cemetery.

On a beautiful day in September, Wendy, her parents, who live in Ludlow, brother and aunt visited the museum, and after exchanging information and photos with the Society, followed us to the Center



Revolutionary War soldier's grave site.

Cemetery and were led to the grave sites. They thought the cemetery was beautifully kept and were very touched with the fact that a new American flag was placed at Samuel's grave site. A simple headstone reads, "Samuel Low, Died Sept. 17, 1839, Aged 81 years." It was explained that every Memorial Day new flags are placed on all veterans' graves.

President's Note:

Committees and members of the Shrewsbury Historical Society have had a busy year once again. A few people have accomplished much to better the museum and its place in our community.

The House Committee has been busy planning and constructing an earthen ramp in the rear of the building. The entrance/exit door and a few finishing touches are left to do to make the museum handicap accessible. The Fund Raising Committee held a plant and bake sale in May and a Fall Food Fest "all things apple and pumpkin" in the museum on October 15th. Both were successful events. A 2007 calendar sale is in the planning stage for next year. The Society hosted an interesting display of the Town Hall at the statewide History Expo in Tunbridge. Many hours were spent planning, preparing, setting up, and hosting the exhibit.

A sincere "thank you" goes to all officers, committees, and members for all they have done for the Society. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed. The time you spend for the good of the Society is greatly appreciated.

My first year as president has been a learning experience. I believe we have had a good year. Thank you to everyone for the things you do.

Marguerite Ponton

Officers and Trustees 2005

<i>President</i>	Marguerite Ponton
<i>Vice President</i>	Fran Patten
<i>Treasurer</i>	John Elwert
<i>Secretary</i>	Ruth Winkler

Trustees

Betsy Bennett	Al Ridlon, Sr.
Don Butler	Richard Bettelli
Conrad Winkler	Richard Wiedmann

Newsletter Editors

Ruth Winkler	Conrad Winkler
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Society Celebrates 35th in 2006

The Shrewsbury Historical Society was formed in the year 1971 and nominated Arthur Patten to be its first President. The membership grew and after years of keeping artifacts in boxes and bags, were able to move to the second floor of the town library which became the first museum of the Society.

In March of 1999 members began preparing the Cuttingsville church building for a new museum and grand opening which was held in August.

In June the Society will celebrate its 35th year.

Our 25th Anniversary Party

On June 3, 1996, the Society celebrated its 25th year by having a party in the Community Center. Among the celebrants were some of the original founders.



Pictured above from left to right are Donna Smith, Nancy Spencer, Jim McCullough, Peggy Patten, George Brigham, Dorothy Turnbeau and Heidi Mitchell.

Special memories were told by Nancy about the trip she and Arthur Patten made to visit the Vt. Historical Society in Montpelier, to ask advice as to how to start a historical society. They received negative comments and told that they did not realize all the obstacles involved. All the way home in the car, Arthur was upset and sputtered that "nothing would deter them from starting up the society."

Dorothy Turnbeau said that when she received the invitation it brought back many memories, mainly of the meetings held in various homes in the town.



The Shrewsbury Historical Society once again joined 145 other historical societies of Vermont in presenting an exhibit at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds on June 25 and 26, 2005.

Exhibiting in a special arena devoted to architecture, the Shrewsbury Society presented a pictorial wall featuring the "Shrewsbury Community Meeting House Continuity and Change: 1806 to 2005."

The four wall panels show photos of townspeople and events held at the Center, and an artist's conception of what the first Community Center might have looked like. Two large spectacular photographs of the Community Center in fall and winter, taken by the Society's photographer, Richard Wiedmann, rounds out the display.

If you missed seeing it at the Expo, the museum committee has added it to our standing exhibits.

The Fair . . . Then and Now

When the forty-second annual fair of the Rutland county agricultural society closed, the Rutland Herald on September 23, 1887 printed some of the events and winners and their premiums. Under "Potatoes", G.H. Burr of Shrewsbury won first premium of \$2. "Oats" first premium of \$1 was issued to John P. Williams of Shrewsbury. "Stock Horses" stallion 4 years old, Lyman Aldrich of Shrewsbury was second with \$4. "Third Class Jerseys", E.B. Lord of Shrewsbury won second premium of \$2. "Working Oxen" trained steers went to Charles Aldrich \$5 and Eaton Lord, \$3, both of Shrewsbury.

The ladies of Shrewsbury and Cuttingsville shown in the Floral Hall Premiums with wool bed quilt and rug making. They were Mrs. O.M. Baker and J.W. Kenney.

Under Maple Syrup, D.H. Cook of Shrewsbury won \$1. Special mention of "Discretionary Premiums" brought a diploma to Charles Aldrich of Shrewsbury who exhibited a hitching post, unique in design and useful where considerable freedom is desired for the "hitched" animal.

This year's one hundred and sixtieth annual fair prizewinners were: Shrewsbury Historical Society's president Marguerite Ponton won first place and Best in Show in the Grange competition of "Tea Time" featuring fall flowers in a tea pot. Marguerite also won a second place ribbon in the Grange competition of "America the Beautiful" red, white and blue flower arrangements. Shrewsbury's Donna Smith won second place for her maple cake in the maple novelties competition.



At left, postcard from SHS vintage postcard collection.

Calendar Notes for 2005

January

Mailed to the Vermont Arts Council a signed copy of contract between the Society and the Arts Council regarding matching grant in amount of \$4,638 for construction of earthen ramp, landing and second exit/entrance to the museum.

The SHS applied to the Town of Shrewsbury requesting \$2000 for help in maintaining and operating the museum. Request was approved in March.

February

Sen. Hull Maynard agreed to attend Grant Award ceremony at the State House in Montpelier to accept the matching grant award on behalf of the SHS.

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

March

Patricia and Donald Oresman of Shrewsbury and New York, new life members.

April

Annual Meeting and election of officers was held April 21st.

May

On Sat., May 28th, the Fund Raising Committee held a successful Plant and Bake Sale on the lawn of the museum. The moneys raised came to \$625. The SVFD tent was much appreciated as well as all the home-baked goodies, cash donations and garden treasures from members and friends.

June

History Expo 2005 was held in Tunbridge, June 25-26. Fran Patten, Nancy Spencer and a graphic designer worked on an exhibit pertaining to the 200th anniversary of the Community Center.

July

The museum opened for the season on Sunday, July 3rd. The museum hours this year remained the same: Sundays, 1 to 3 p.m.

August

Addition to "In Memory Of" Scroll in honor of Tilton Richards, requested by Mt. Moriah Lodge #96 of Wallingford.

Interview committee met with Steven Martyn at museum and videotaped Steven's memories of

Cuttingsville and Shrewsbury, and added footage later of Edna Martyn on her porch with her son, Steven.

September

Secretary presented to Society an album containing e-mails and color photographs of Shrewsbury, England received from Mr. Colin Hose of our sister town in England.

October

On Sat., October 15th, the Fund Raising Committee held a successful Fall Food Fest, inside the museum where it was warm and dry.

November and December

On Nov. 16th, Mountain School's third, fourth, fifth and six graders visited the museum with their teachers.

On Dec. 6th interviewed Anne Nancy Spencer for our collection of videotapes.

Gifts to SHS, 2005

Marga Skelly, Shrewsbury: Postcard of U.S. Post Office, Cuttingsville (Old Brick Store), produced by the Merrimark Picture Post Card Co., Vermont.

Polly Ridlon Wilson, Bennington: one blue and white handwoven coverlet, woven by Almna Aldrich in 1830 for the dowry of her sister, Betsey, who married Henry M. Waterman III, Feb. 27, 1831; and a leather pocketbook, lined with wallpaper, made and used by Henry M. Waterman III, husband of Betsey Aldrich Waterman. Henry died in 1834.

Kathleen Leeds, Fl.: a Smith Corona Electronic Typewriter V.

Liesbeth Van Der Heijden, Shrewsbury: Two discs of photographs (duplicates) of contents of Pierce's house and store.

Donald Oresman, N.Y.: "Wrap Oneself in Quotations . . ." 2004.

Polly and Sterling Wilson, Bennington: Clipping from The Green Mountain Freeman, Winter 2004-2005 re: B.J. Stewart.

Patricia Duchesneau, R.I.: Porcelain Vt. License plate of 1914 from horse barn at Chandler Smith farm; a mirror from William Russell house, see page 104, of history book.

Spring Lake Ranch, Cuttingsville: 16 mm film of Dwight D. Eisenhower campaign.

Marguerite Ponton, Shrewsbury: Twenty-three Shrewsbury School Graduation Programs from early to mid-1900s.

SHREWSBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 2006 Annual Dues Request

On April 19, 2006, the Shrewsbury Historical Society will celebrate its 35th year of preserving the past and recording the present history and heritage of our town.

The year was 1971. In March, forty-five enthusiastic townspeople gathered together at the Town Hall, after receiving an invitation from Arthur Patten to help preserve the town's history, and voted unanimously to organize a historical society. The following month, on April 19th, 1971, the by-laws were adopted and officers elected.

The Society has come a long way in helping to preserve artifacts and display them for everyone to enjoy. Our exhibits rotate from year to year which is always interesting to those who visit the museum each year. In recent years, the quest of many folks who search out their ancestors from Shrewsbury has increased due to the Internet and the Vermont Historical Society's website and all such requests are answered. Most importantly, the Society has had a second exit/entrance designed in the rear of the building, with an earthen ramp leading to the landing, thus enabling those who are physically challenged the opportunity to visit the museum.

Your support helps keep the museum viable, interesting and accessible. Your dues and donations will not only be used for the upkeep and care of the museum building, but will also help in the preservation of our town's history for future generations.

The Annual Meeting and election of officers will take place on Wednesday, April 19, 2006 at 7 P.M. at the museum on Route 103 in Cuttingsville. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Thank you for your support.

The "Shrewsbury, Vermont – Our Town As It Was" history book by Dawn D. Hance has been reprinted in soft-cover and is now available by mail. Priced at \$25 (\$20 for members), add \$4.00 for postage. The books can also 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.

2006 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
History Book plus postage	\$.....

Address _____

Dues and donations are tax deductible.

1881 Marker



Shown above is a photograph of a marker found on property of Con and Ruth Winkler in Cuttingsville, located high on a hill overlooking Laurel Glen.

The marker reads: "Fountain Reservoy of Laurel Glen Mausoleum June 1881."

Upon investigation, the marker which is on the ground beside a huge water cistern, was placed there to supply waters used by John Bowman for the Laurel Glen Cemetery, fountains, conservatory and the mansion itself.

The pipe which led to the cistern has long since been broken and the well is dry.

Plant and Bake Sale

On May 28th, 2005, the Fund Raising Committee held their Annual Plant and Bake Sale under the tent on the lawn of the museum. It was a very successful sale and many members and friends cooperated to help make it so, either by baking or by digging up some of their precious garden treasures, such as lilies, iris, hydrangea and pansies.

Fall Food Fest

On October 15th, 2005, the Committee held their Fall Food Fest, this time inside the museum as Mother Nature had other plans. Goodies made of apple and pumpkin graced many tables and while there, folks were able to enjoy looking at the historical exhibits.

In Memoriam

George H. Erb, a former member, died on October 23rd, 2005 at the age of 93. George will always be remembered for his brilliant mind and his love of writing poetry and short stories which he enjoyed sharing, oftentimes at the annual Shrewsbury Talent Show.

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