



Number Twelve

December 2010

Times Past

Shrewsbury Historical Society
Newsletter

1800's Transportation

Coaching Through Shrewsbury

Soon after the turnpikes came through, the stage began running their lines through to Boston. In a Rutland Herald ad dated Dec. 19, 1807, Thomas Dunning announced his new line of stages. They left Rutland Monday and Fridays at 4 am – arrived at Keene (N.H.) the same day – left Keene every Tuesday and Saturday morning and arrived at Boston the same day. The return trip was just the same, leaving on Monday and Friday. There was no mention of the cost.

Harriet Barney Ross wrote, "In those days the only means of transportation beside private conveyance, was the stage coach which was actually drawn by four horses. It was a covered vehicle that would seat six or eight persons comfortably, as I remember it, though I was never inside one. On the stage road, the driver would stop at your door if you wished to get aboard. If there were more people than the inside could hold, some would ride on top. The luggage went on behind. If the roads were rough, it was a jolting ride and in winter a very cold one, especially for the driver. Horses were changed at certain places. I can remember of hearing the talk of the stage stopping at the tavern one cold night with the driver frozen to death, the reins in his hands."

Another account, written by Mary Royce Nichols states "These were the days of the busy stage coach. Many hours my brother and I spent watching the stages come and go. Always with two horses, and in bad weather going four and sometimes six would be hitched on. Each horse was decorated with a small flag. Two of them were given us. Long we treasured them. It was quick work changing the horses and away rolled the stage." This last sentence indicates the horses were changed in Cuttingsville probably at the tavern, since that is where Mary grew up.



The two main stops along the route in Shrewsbury were at the Tavern in Cuttingsville and at Finney's Tavern. In a letter dated May 1, 1837 written by Stephen Gleason to his sister Nancy Thomas, who was coming to Shrewsbury, this reference is found. "When you come up if you come in the stage as I presume you will, if you can send word by anyone, I will come or send for you. You will probably stop at Finney's Tavern or you can stop at Barnes Tavern (later known as the Union House) in Cuttingsville that will be the nearest to this place but stop at which place you please."

Another stage route was the County Road, more commonly called the road to Woodstock. They passed up Lincoln Hill, through the Center, by Tip Top. Minnie Adams recalled a visit to an old lady, a descendant of the Russells who stayed at Adams. She told her parents wouldn't let her go the trip up the hill for fear she would be kidnaped and taken away on the stage.

(The above article was found in the SHS files, author unknown.)

President's Note

Members came through in 2010 with a spring Plant & Bake sale and the Memories 2011 calendar. The Society's History Expo exhibit at Tunbridge featured three families in town who work with their land. The exhibit was shown in the museum this summer along with an exhibit based on 64 Civil War letters.

I am especially pleased that several young Shrewsbury boys and girls, Manolo Zelkin, Emmett and Cedelle Sirjane, were involved in preparing the "Back to the Land" History Expo exhibit with 3 dioramas, and a young lady, Clara Krueger, loaned her hand-made Civil War-era dress to complement the Civil War letter exhibit. The Society was also gifted a Civil War sword and a Golden Book for Children on the war, donated by Sally Jones, which added to the exhibit.

I want to express my thanks to all committee members for their commitment in keeping the outside of the museum plowed and mowed, and the inside by being kept clean and interesting.

The year 2011 will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the formation of the Society, and the Town of Shrewsbury will celebrate its Sestercentennial (250th year) by Charter signed by Royal Governor of New Hampshire, Benning Wentworth, on Sept. 4, 1761.

Con Winkler, *President*

Officers and Trustees

2009

<i>President</i>	Con Winkler
<i>Vice-President</i>	Marguerite Ponton
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Newsletter Editors

Ruth Winkler	Conrad Winkler
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ruthcon1@vermontel.net
www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.com

Shrewsbury Historical Society, Inc.

(An all-volunteer non-profit organization)

5419 Route 103

Cuttingsville, Vermont 05738

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SVFD to the Rescue



On the foggy morning of March 31, 2010 at 8 AM, a woman driver heading north out of Cuttingsville crossed the center line, an embankment and a marshy area to end up in the flood-swollen Mill River. Moments later members of the SVFD arrived and the photo above was taken of Alan Ridlon, Jr., after he successfully harnessed the driver and led her across a ladder to safety. The vehicle was later removed from the river.
(Photo by Jon Lees)

CUTTINGSVILLE WALK-ABOUT

On a rainy Saturday afternoon, October 16, 2010, members Nancy Spencer and Fran Patten hosted Professor Scott Roper from Castleton College and 24 members of the Pioneer America Society for the Preservation of Artifacts and Landscapes. The group enjoyed the artifacts and displays at the museum.

The Pioneer Society meet at various locations each year for a conference. They come from all states and are primarily geographers, historians, art historians, architects and architectural historians and includes members from all over the world.

On this day's outing their destinations included the Coolidge Homestead in Plymouth, barn sites in Mount Holly, the Shrewsbury Historical Society Museum, Laurel Glen Cemetery and a walk-about Cuttingsville using a map which designated historical buildings.

In Memoriam

Roger B. Oresman, former member, who lived in New York City, passed away on April 2, 2010. His wife Janice requested his name be placed on the "In Memory of" scroll in the museum, and wrote of his love for the Town of Shrewsbury.

Cook Family Visits

On Sunday, October 10th, 2010, about 20 members of Edward J. Cook's family visited the museum to see the exhibit based on the 64 Civil War Letters to Home, written by George Wellington Foster to his wife, Leora (nee Adams) during 1862 and 1863. Ed Cook and his sister, Edith Cook Penney and two brothers, George Wallace Foster Cook and Frederick Nelson Cook donated the letters to the Historical Society. The original letters, plus a binder of transcribed letters, is now on file in the Town Clerk's office.

On the exhibit table stood photographs of family members, a photo of Abraham Lincoln who had called on Vermont men to serve for 9 months, small flags of the Union and Confederate armies, and reproductions of Foster's letters and drawings. A special binder held all 64 transcribed letters. Added to the exhibit was a Civil War sword donated by Sally Jones, and a manikin dressed in a beautiful hand-made Civil War-era dress, on loan from Clara Krueger.

Cook called his family together and gave a recitation about his great grandfather and great grandmother and the family that followed them. In appreciation, his brother Frederick Cook presented to Ed Cook on behalf of the family, a framed Certificate of Honor for his efforts in preserving the history of the Foster - Adams families.

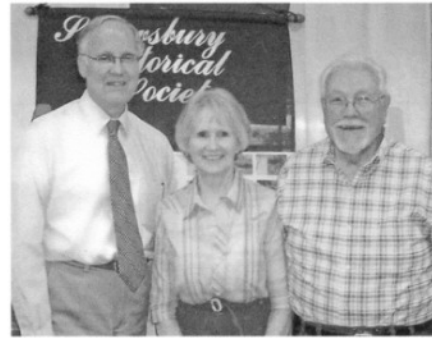
The families ended the afternoon with a visit to the Laurel Glen Cemetery to visit the family grave sites.

Sleeping Lucy's Cave

A mystery postcard in the museum's vintage postcard album shows a cave opening and is titled, "Sleeping Lucy's Cave". In researching Sleeping Lucy, the Society discovered Lucy Ainsworth was born in 1819, in Calais, Vt., and married to Charles Cooke in 1847. She was well known for her ability to diagnose physical ailments, find missing wallets, or help sheriffs solve mysteries by entering a trance-like sleep known as mesmerism. After her husband died, Lucy remarried and moved to Boston where she continued to practice as Dr. Lucy Cooke, treating patients and running a successful mail order herbal business.

After researching this information, the Shrewsbury Historical Society is still mystified as to where this cave is located and why this particular cave is named "Sleeping Lucy's Cave".

History Expo 2010



Shown above, l. to r., Gov. James Douglas, Fran Patten and Richard Bettelli.

The History Expo in Tunbridge this year was held on June 26th and 27th, and had as its theme: "Back to the Land Again". The Shrewsbury Historical Society's committee, under the direction of Fran Patten, consisted of Richard Bettelli, Grace Brigham, Bud Clark, and John Elwert.

The exhibit attracted much attention and was also visited by Governor James Douglas.

Mill River Going Out



On Sunday, December 27, 2009 at 2:28 PM, the ice encrusted Mill River that flows through the hamlet of Cuttingsville, "went out"! Gina Stewart reported "it was my first time seeing this happen, and it was amazing. The sound of the ice jamming up and then letting loose was so loud. I only wish everyone could see this once in a lifetime." Gina ran outside with her camera and took photos.

SHS ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting and Election of Officers for the year 2011 will be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2011 at 7 PM at the museum.

Summer Exhibits
Civil War-Era Dress



Complementing the Civil War Letters to Home exhibit, the Society was most pleased to show the beautiful hand-made Civil War-era hoop-skirted dress made by Shrewsbury's own Clara Krueger, daughter of Arthur and Trish Norton Krueger.

Krueger started making the dress when she was 16 years old, and worked on it "off and on" for a year and a half.

The exquisite outfit is period correct, complete with all the undergarments worn at that time, which includes a chemise, drawers, boned corset, two petticoats, one for under and one for over a boned hoop. (The boned hoop is in reality plastic tubing used by her father for the gathering of maple sap.)

On top of all this is added a pale green flounced skirt and jacket with attached long white sleeves. The jacket is closed with handmade buttons, and pinned at the white collar is a pale green cameo.

Dresses such as this were worn by fashionable ladies of that time.

Notes found in the comment book in the vestibule: "I loved the dress made by Clara. It's beautiful. I would love to wear it" and "What an accomplishment."

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Back to the Land



Dioramas featured three local farmers, namely Bob and Judy Landon, Arthur and Trish Norton Krueger, and Grace Brigham. They were constructed by Manolo Zelkin, and Emmett and Cedelle Sirjane. Using clay and paint, they hand-crafted miniature farmland scenes.

Civil War Letters to Home



Center exhibit featured photographs of George Wellington Foster and family, with copies of his letters and a binder of 64 transcribed letters.

Civil War Sword



Dated 1862, the sword was donated to the Society by Sally Jones, along with a Golden Book story of the Civil War that her children enjoyed.

Health Clinic Film

In 1995, member Peggy Patten donated a composition book with notes by Peggy about the Shrewsbury Health Unit formed by women in Shrewsbury, starting in 1939 up to 1959, for the betterment of all children in the town.

Physicians and dentists examined the children annually and necessary vaccinations were given.

A "Health Loan Supply Closet" was also instituted whereby various items were bought and loaned out, i.e., ice bags, hot water bottles, cod liver oil capsules, etc. Some of the moneys collected by fund raising went to buy new serum for whooping cough and diphtheria.

The SHS has in its collection of tapes, a silent film taken in 1939 in black and white and a color film taken in the 1940s, which were to be shown in the state as part of the Public Health Educational Programs.

The black and white film was taken on October 11, 1939. Doctor H. S. Martyn was assisted by five other doctors, four nurses and one nutritionist to assist at the Community Center.

Seventy-one students and 32 pre-school and infants were examined. Eighteen children were immunized against diphtheria and 18 were vaccinated against small pox.

Shrewsbury Historical Society

Great Holiday Gifts

"Shrewsbury, Vermont - Our Town As It Was" by Dawn D. Hance, 320 page soft cover book. \$25

(S.H.S. members \$20)

The 2011 Memories calendar with vintage Shrewsbury photos.
\$12 each

Both book and calendar can be purchased at:

Pierce's Store & Town Clerk's Office

If you wish to have book or calendar mailed to you, add mailing charges:

\$6 for book, \$3 for calendar.

Mail check with name & address to:
Shrewsbury Historical Society, Inc.
5419 Route 103
Cuttingsville, Vermont 05738

SHREWSBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

2011 Annual Dues Request

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. Thank you for your support.

2011 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
Address _____	Life (Individual/Couple)	\$125

or Donation \$ _____

Dues and donations are tax deductible.

Gifts to SHS, 2010

Anne F. Spencer, Shrewsbury: Four books, Guide to MA Cemeteries, New England Collectors, Troubled Roar of the Waters and New England Prospect: Maps, Place Names and Historical Landscape.

Claire Dana, Mt. Holly: Former Mountain School teacher, 3 photos of classes, 70's, grade six; enrollment lists for 1976, 77, 78, 79; 2 newspaper clippings re: Dr. Martyn; 2 snapshots of Carrara's moose and the ice floe, and flood of 1977 by Route 103; 2 large photos of Bowman Mansion float and Dragon floats, used in Halloween Parades of 1975/76; a newspaper clipping from Rutland Herald showing dragon.

Josh Ridlon, Cuttingsville: Pamphlet printed by Tuttle, Commencement Exercise of Rutland Hospital training school, May 16, 1922, given to Alta Edna Ridlon, found in Brick Store during alterations.

Sally Jones, Cuttingsville: Civil War Sword dated 1862, and Golden Book "The Civil War," American Heritage Publishing Co., Inc.

Fran Patten, Shrewsbury: Green iron crosspiece, from old bridge built in 1928, torn down in 1991, over Mill River in Cuttingsville.

Donald and Patricia Oresman, New York City: Booklet of sayings, "A Splattering of Hatred, Ridicule and Contempt with a Dash of Abuse and Inveective."

Kathy Scott, Colchester: Digital photos received by e-mail of various members of Smith, Holden, Pratt families, plus two articles from Rutland Herald, an 1880 wedding of Samuel Franklin Smith's daughter, and a 1901 50th wedding anniversary of S. F. Smith and wife Caroline Holden Smith.

Marie Savery Garrow, Pittsford: A framed 8th grade Shrewsbury Public School graduation certificate of Myrtle Viola Savery, June 20, 1913.

Julanne Smith Sharrow, Shrewsbury: A graduation booklet from Black River Academy, 1938, for Carl A. Pratt, Jr.

Donna Smith, Shrewsbury: Various documents and letters pertaining to the 1800's Union Meeting House Society.

Anonymous donor: Two manuals, "Small Arms Firing Manual," 1913, published by War Dept. and "Manual of Interior Guard Duty," U.S. Army, 1924. A 3-4 foot tall hand-made telescope by Hugh W. Ridlon, made in 1938.

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