

# Times Past

Shrewsbury Historical Society  
Newsletter

## The Wrath of Hurricane Irene

### *Shrewsbury Hit Hard*

On Sunday afternoon, August 28, 2011, Hurricane Irene slammed into Vermont which was devastated by the unending rain, the rising rivers, streams, brooks and lakes.

The Town of Shrewsbury, with its abundant rivers and brooks, was hit hard with overflowing water spilling into yards and basements with silt and mud.

Cuttingsville's Route 103 became a river itself, and the tiny stream behind Pierce's store filled and widened and found its way downhill. Wilmouth Hill Bridge held its own  
*(Continued on Page Four)*



*As said by President Calvin Coolidge during his trip to review the recovery from the 1927 floods in Vermont.*

"I love Vermont because of her hills and valleys, her scenery and invigorating climate, but most of all because of her indomitable people. If the spirit of liberty should vanish in other parts of the Union, and support of our institutions should languish, it could all be replenished from the generous store held by the people of this brave little state of Vermont."

Or as noted in the *Rutland Herald* in September 2011 that when Charlotte Tyler, a kindergartner, was asked how she walks the half mile on a wooded path with others due to roads being washed out, to attend Barstow Memorial School in Chittenden:

"I just walk straight ahead."

*Brown Bridge*



*Cuttingsville*

## President's Note

The year 2011 has been a busy and productive year for the Society. Beginning in September of 2010, a meeting of the Trustees and Museum Committee was called to discuss plans to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Town in 2011. Items discussed which became realities were the framing of two copies of the Town's Charter, one for the museum and one to be given as a gift to the Town with an accompanying plaque; to hand out to visitors a smaller copy of the 1<sup>st</sup> page of the Charter; and to give out to children pencils inscribed with the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Society's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I prepared a special 250<sup>th</sup> cachet envelope and postmark with the help of Grace Brigham's artwork, as a gift to members and as a fund-raiser.

Exhibited in the museum this summer were photos chosen from our archives showing how Shrewsbury grew; the framed copy of the Charter, artifacts and diaries.

On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, the 250<sup>th</sup> was officially started with the opening of the museum at 8 am until noon to offer the special commemorative postmarked cachet envelopes. The following day, Sunday, at 10 AM, the "tolling of the bells" was heard from Cuttingsville to the Meeting House at the Center to Northam Church. However, due to the arrival of Hurricane Irene the week before, plans for the town's celebration on September 4<sup>th</sup> were postponed until October 22nd.

I thank each and every member who helped with the annual Spring Bake Sale and planning of the Memories 2012 calendar.

Con Winkler, *President*

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### ANNUAL MEETING

**The Annual Meeting of the Historical Society will be held on Tuesday, May 1, 2012, 7 pm at the museum.**

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#### Officers and Trustees

2011

<i>President</i>	Conrad Winkler
<i>Vice-President</i>	Marguerite Ponton
<i>Treasurer</i>	John Elwert
<i>Secretary</i>	Ruth Winkler

#### Trustees

Grace Brigham	Catherine Carrara
Fran Patten	Nancy Spencer
Richard Bettelli	Ann Ridlon

Honorary Trustee: Bud Clark

#### Newsletter Editors

Ruth Winkler	Conrad Winkler
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[www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.com)

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**Shrewsbury Historical Society, Inc.**

*(An all-volunteer non-profit organization)*

5419 Route 103

Cuttingsville, Vermont 05738

## History Preserved

This year the Historical Society approved the transfer from audio cassette tapes to CDs interviews with townspeople that started in 1971 through 1988. From 1989 on, interviews were recorded on video tapes and transferred to DVDs. Ahmet Baycu of Shrewsbury transferred the 36 interviews, along with two master DVD discs. Among those interviewed from the 1970s were: Edith Tiernan, Helen Cook, Mabel Knight, Henry and Myrtle Fee, Marjorie Pierce, Lloyd and Mary Stapleton, Carlos Bailey, Donato Carrara, Katherine Purdy, Willard Smith, Fordyce Sanderson, Annette Anderson, Eloise Barber, and Irene Van Guilder. Also audio coverage of town meetings, and special musical programs.

On November 9<sup>th</sup>, Trustees Grace Brigham, Fran Patten, Richard Bettelli and Catherine Carrara presented a special program at Mountain School, along with some of the children, introducing Benning Wentworth (Bettelli) and telling the story of how Wentworth signed the Charter designating the Town of Shrewsbury. Copies of first page of charter and special pencils were handed to the students.

## In Memoriam

*Julian A. Plumley Sr.*, former member, gentle soul and a fine gentleman, passed away on February 23, 2011. Julian was always first at the museum on meeting night. He was very quiet but always contributed to the discussion at hand about Shrewsbury as he remembered it.

*James McCullough*, former founding member, passed away at age 93 on March 26, 2011. Jim lived in Cuttingsville in the historical Huntoon brick house and was a well known antique dealer and appraiser. He moved in his later years and was able to attend the Society's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party, along with other founding members who organized the Historical Society in 1971, forty years ago.

*John "Jack" Fitzpatrick*, former life member, passed away on July 23, 2011 at age 88. Jack married Jane Hayes Pratt of Cuttingsville in 1944 and together they founded "Country Curtains," the country's first specialty mail order curtain company in 1956, and in 1968 purchased The Red Lion Inn in Stockbridge, MA.

*Dick Adams*, former member, passed away on October 13, 2011 at age 76. Dick and wife Sally enjoyed visiting and contributing to the annual spring plant and bake sale, and donated flowers from his beautiful gardens. Dick also enjoyed attending meetings and donated photos and a CD of a rare, and very old "ash house" he found in back of Heidi Mitchell's home one year. Dick's energy and love of family and friends and community will be sorely missed.

# Society Celebrates Town's 250<sup>th</sup>

The SHS plans for the celebration of Shrewsbury's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary started in Sept., 2010.

On July 4, 2011, the museum opened and accomplished were: 1. To have two copies of the original Charter archivally framed, one to be hung in the museum proper and the other presented to the Town to be displayed in the Meeting House. 2. A museum exhibit of 80 photos showing Shrewsbury and how it grew. 3. Tables devoted to diaries and photos of earlier settlers, plus war memorabilia and artifacts. 3. Copies of the first page of the Charter rolled and tied as a gift for museum guests, plus a commemorative pencil with wording depicting the 250<sup>th</sup> plus the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the forming of the Society. 5. The lowering of the price of the history book to \$15 for the year. 6. The transference of oral tapes to CDs of interviews with residents from 1971 to the 1980's by Ahmet Baycu.

On Saturday, Sept. 3, 2011 a special cachet envelope designed by Con Winkler and Grace Brigham with a 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary postmark were available and sold at the museum. On Sunday, Sept. 4, 2011, President Con Winkler and Life Member Al Ridlon Sr. tolled the bell atop the museum announcing the exact date the Charter was signed in 1761. On Wednesday, Nov. 9, Society Trustees Grace Brigham, Fran Patten, Richard Bettelli and Catherine Carrara, presented a play at Shrewsbury Mountain School with Richard Bettelli in full costume, portraying Benning Wentworth. On Sunday, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>, Trustee Fran Patten and Secretary Ruth Winkler were photographed by the copy of the Charter in the Meeting House which was presented to the people of Shrewsbury.



*Al Ridlon and Con Winkler Tolling*



*Commemorative Envelope*

## SHREWSBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 2012 Annual Dues and Donations 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.

### ***HELP PRESERVE OUR TOWN'S HISTORY*** **2012 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 a Donation of \$ _____	

*Dues and donations are tax deductible.*



*Ruth Winkler and Fran Patten with Charter*



*Richard Bettelli as Benning Wentworth*

**IRENE** from Page One

as the Cold River rose and tumbled down beside the road re-arranging its banks.

The town's road crew and Volunteer Fire Department worked tirelessly to rebuild roads and culverts and bridges.

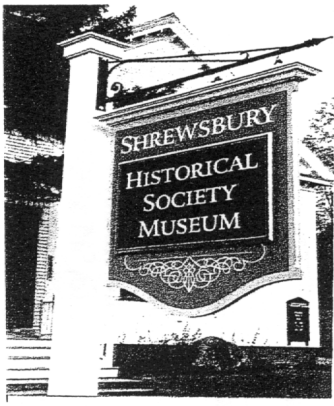
Detours were everywhere and electric power and telephone service was halted for many residents. A ride through our beautiful town today shows much more work is to be done.

One historical casualty is the only covered bridge in town, the Brown Bridge, which at least is in one piece but needs repair. Jamie Carrara stated that "work should be starting just after Thanksgiving to make sure the bridge stays stable throughout the winter. The road leading to it won't be worked on until next year due to the large amount of work involved."

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**Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year  
to all our  
members and friends**

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



*Special Edition*

*September 4, 1761 - 2011*

# Times Past

Shrewsbury Historical Society  
Newsletter

## Shrewsbury Celebrates its 250<sup>th</sup>

**ROYAL GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
BENNING WENTWORTH**  
*Appointed in 1741*

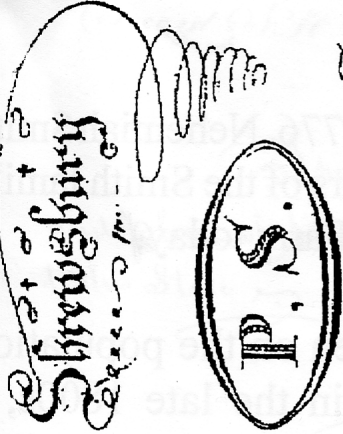
Benning Wentworth granted 24,000 acres of land to be named Shrewsbury to 63 associates on September 4, 1761. These land grants were usually land speculators who never saw their properties or settled on them. However, their relatives and acquaintances were often eager to buy these lands and establish a home. Two known proprietors who did stay briefly in Shrewsbury were Samuel Ashley and Joseph Wood. Listed in the 1790 census of Shrewsbury are the names of Martin Ashley and Joseph Wood.



Significant migration to Shrewsbury began about 1780 when settlers began arriving from Barre, Massachusetts; Richmond, New Hampshire; and Rhode Island. The early settlers usually bought one or more hundred acre lots – thus their houses were often far apart.

Lemuel White was Shrewsbury's first settler locating on lot 1 in 1776. Nehemiah Smith arrived in 1780 and settled on lot 4. Over 200 years later, members of the Smith family are located on the same properties and operate the Pine Valley Farm today.

By 1800 there were 748 residents in Shrewsbury. From then on the population rose until it peaked in 1830 with 1,289 people. Starting in the late 1800s, a significant decline began – by 1930 only 540 people remained in town. According to the latest Census, there were 1,056 residents in 2010.



# Province of New-Hampshire.

## G E O R G E the Third,

By the Grace of GOD, of Great-Britain, France, and Ireland, KING,  
Defender of the Faith, &c.

To all Persons to whom these Presents shall come,

GREETING.

**K**NOW YE, that We, of Our special Grace, certain Knowledge, and mere Motion, for the due Encouragement of settling a *New Plantation* within Our said Province, by and with the Advice of Our Trusty and Well-beloved *BENNING WENTWORTH*, Esquire, Our Governor and Commander in Chief of Our said Province of *New-Hampshire*, in *New-England*, and of Our COUNCIL of the said Province: HAVE, upon the Conditions and Reservations herein after made, given and granted, and by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, do give and grant, in equal Shares, unto Our loving Subjects, Inhabitants of Our said Province of *New-Hampshire*, and Our other Governments, and to their Heirs and Assigns for ever, whose Names are entered on this Grant, to be divided to and amongst them into *Seventy* <sup>Acres,</sup> within Our said Province of *New-Hampshire*, containing, by Admeasurement, *About Twenty four thousand Six* Miles square, and no more; which Tract is to contain *Something more than Six* Miles square, and no more; out of which, an Allowance is to be made for High-Ways, and unimprovable Lands by Rocks, Ponds, Mountains and Rivers, One Thousand and Forty Acres free, according to a Plan and Survey thereof, made by Our said Governor's Order, and returned into the Secretary's Office, and hereunto annexed, butted and bounded as follows—*vis. Beginning at the South*

*Westerly corner of Sattash from thence North seventeen degrees East six miles  
by Sattash thence West five degrees North seven miles and one quarter of a mile  
thence South five degrees West six miles thence East five degrees South to the  
corner of Sattash being the bounds first above mentioned.*

And that the same be, and hereby is, incorporated into a Township, by the Name of *Shrewsbury* And the Inhabitants that do or shall hereafter inhabit the said Township, are hereby declared to be enfranchized with, and entitled to, all and every the Privileges and Immunities that other Towns within Our Province by Law exercise and enjoy: And further, that the said Town, as soon as there shall be Fifty Families resident and settled thereon, shall have the Liberty of holding *Two Fairs*, one of which shall be held on the <sup>and the other on the</sup> following the said annually; which Fairs are not to continue longer than the respective

And that as soon as the said Town shall consist of Fifty Families, a Market may be opened and kept one or more Days in each Week, as may be thought most advantageous to the Inhabitants. Also, that the first Meeting for the Choice of Town Officers, agreeable to the Laws of Our said Province, shall be held on the *First Wednesday in October next* in which said Meeting shall be notified by *M<sup>r</sup>. Samuel Ashley* who is hereby also appointed the Moderator of the said first Meeting, which he is to notify and govern agreeable to the Laws and Customs of Our said Province; and that the Annual Meeting, for ever hereafter, for the Choice of such Officers for the said Town, shall be on the *Second Tuesday of March* annually.

*TO HAVE AND TO HOLD* the said Tract of Land, as above expressed, together with all Privileges and Appurtenances, to them and their respective Heirs and Assigns for ever, upon the following Conditions—*viz.*

I. That every Grantee, his Heirs or Assigns, shall plant and cultivate Five Acres of Land, within the Term of Five Years, for every Fifty Acres contained in his or their Share or Proportion of Land in said Township, and continue to improve and settle the same, by additional Cultivations, on Penalty of the Forfeiture of his Grant or Share in the said Township, and of its reverting to Us, Our Heirs and Successors, to be by Us or Them re-granted to such of Our Subjects as shall effectually settle and cultivate the same.

II. That all white and other Pine Trees within the said Township, fit for masting Our Royal Navy, be carefully preserved for that Use, and none to be cut or felled without Our special License for so doing first had and obtained, upon the Penalty of the Forfeiture of the Right of such Grantee, his Heirs and Assigns, to Us, Our Heirs and Successors, as well as being subject to the Penalty of any Act or Acts of Parliament that now are or hereafter shall be enacted.

III. That before any Division of the Land be made to and among the Grantees, a Tract of Land, as near the Centre of the said Township as the Land will admit of, shall be reserved and marked out for Town Lots, one of which shall be allotted to each Grantee, of the Contents of One Acre.

IV. Yielding and paying therefor, to Us, Our Heirs and Successors, for the Space of Ten Years, to be computed from the Date hereof, the Rent of One Ear of Indian Corn only, on the Twenty-fifth Day of *December* annually, if lawfully demanded, the first Payment to be made on the Twenty-fifth Day of *December 1762*

V. Every Proprietor, Settler, or Inhabitant, shall yield and pay unto Us, Our Heirs and Successors, yearly, and every Year for ever, from and after the Expiration of Ten Years from the abovesaid Twenty-fifth Day of *December*, namely, on the Twenty-fifth Day of *December*, which will be in the Year of Our Lord 1772 *One Shilling*, Proclamation Money, for every Hundred Acres he so owns, settles, or possesses, and so in Proportion for a greater or lesser Tract of the said Land; which Money shall be paid by the respective Persons abovesaid, their Heirs or Assigns, in Our Council Chamber in *Perthmouth*, or to such Officer or Officers as shall be appointed to receive the same; and this to be in Lieu of all other Rents and Services whatsoever.

*IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF*, We have caused the Seal of Our said Province to be hereunto affixed.

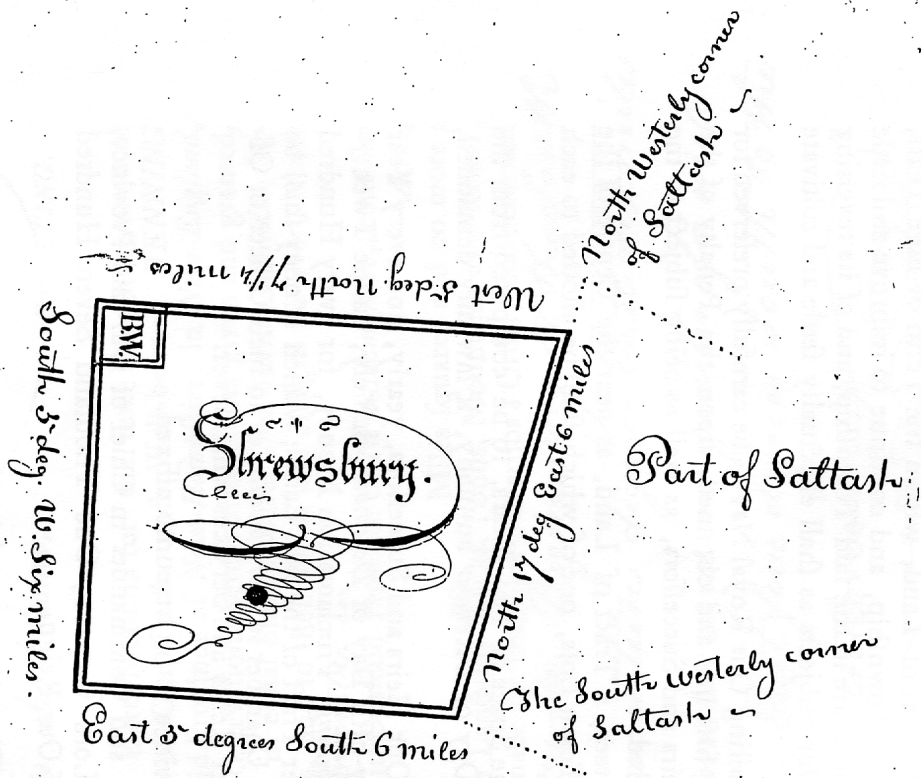
WITNESS, *Benning Wentworth*, ESQUIRE, Our Governor and Commander in Chief of Our said Province, the *4<sup>th</sup>* Day of *September*, in the Year of Our Lord CHRIST, One Thousand Seven Hundred and *Sixty one* and in the *First* Year of Our Reign.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND,  
WITH ADVICE OF COUNCIL.

*Theodore Atkinson Secy*

*B. Wentworth.*

*Province of New Hampshire. September 4<sup>th</sup> 1761. Recorded according to the Original under the Prov. Seal. Attest Theodore Atkinson Secy*



Province of New-England: September 4<sup>th</sup> 1761

Recorded from the back of the original Charter of  
Shrewsbury under the Province Seal

Theodore Atkinson Secy

Secretary's Office  
Concord N.H. August 1808

Whereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the Charter  
and plan of Shrewsbury as recorded in the Charter Records belongin  
to this State

Philip Carigan

Secretary

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161 to 164