

Times Past

Shrewsbury Historical Society Newsletter

There's a Tavern in the Town

Shortly after the Town of Shrewsbury was established, almost any house providing food, drink or lodging that was located near a well traveled road could have become a tavern. Beginning in 1779 state law required the town fathers to submit a list of prospective licensees capable of running a respectable establishment to the county court. By 1798 each owner was required to have a sign with his name on it in front of his tavern. The tavern keeper also had to provide a good shed for sheltering horses and a watering trough.

Gambling materials such as cards, dice, bowls, shuffleboards, or billiards were strictly forbidden on the premises. A "Tavern Haunter" might have his name posted on the door to prevent the keeper from serving him strong drink.

A licensed tavern keeper could legally sell less than a quart of wine, beer, ale, cider or rum either publicly or privately. In 1780 the penalty for breaking this law was ten to fifteen whip lashes on the naked body.

Lemuel White, Shrewsbury's earliest settler, was the first innkeeper in town. White's house was located where the Sharrow family's farmhouse is now, which was nearby the Crown Point Road. In 1776, a reference to this tavern was written, "Saturday, Nov. 23, 1776; We marched to Claritton (Clarendon) and ther (sic) went to dinner, after dinner we went to Shrewsbury and there the company lodged in the woods and it proved to be a very rainy night all night. Sunday, Nov. 24, 1776: I tarried all day at Shrewsbury while others chose to travel in the rain. (White that keeps the tavern hath but poor entertainment both for man and horse)."

Whether White was still operating the tavern when he died in 1812 is uncertain. Nearly all of the local tavern keepers died in the epidemic that year probably caught from travelers. Besides White, Nathan Finney and Phineas Page were also casualties.

Nathan Finney opened his first tavern in 1792, located near Route 103 in Cuttingsville. Lydia Finney

Meech, who was born in 1786. Gave this account of her father in the *Vermont Historical Gazetteer*: "Father was a large, fine looking man, quite tall, with sharp, black eyes. He built the first framed house in town, or certainly the first in our part of the town. I was a little girl when we moved from the log house into it. It was a handsome house for the times, and painted, I think, before we moved in. It was painted red. He afterwards built on additions and opened a public house, being constantly pressed to give entertainment to travelers. So many used to drop in and ask to stay overnight, he and Mr. Robinson who lived above us both concluded to put up their sign. Father got prosperous right off."

Phineas Page kept a tavern at the Center by 1800. In 1808 Page sold an acre of land to Stephen Gleason, on which Gleason built his house (W. H. Smith's). Gleason obtained a license in 1817. His 1835-1837 account book lists his customers and indicates that rum was the popular drink of the day.



Stephen Gleason's Tavern, Shrewsbury Center

Ichabod Robinson's Tavern was located on Shunpike and his son Calvin continued to operate the tavern. It probably was discontinued about 1806 when business dwindled due to the Turnpike's relocation.

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President's Note

It's been a pleasure serving as co-president with David Rice this year. Shrewsbury can be proud of its carefully managed and maintained Society. The museum is one of our town's *treasures*. I'm wishing that more Shrewsberries will become acquainted with its artifacts and activities. It's a precious resource and an interesting place to explore for young and old.

A "Shrewsbury Passport" is being created with input from the SHS, Conservation Commission and Outing Club to encourage us to know more about our town: it's history, land forms and opportunities for recreation and creativity. Stay tuned!

Grace Brigham, *Co-President*

Appreciative Note

In response to our one-time donation request for 2012, Mary Ann (Pratt) Snyder of Largo, Florida wrote: "I think you all are doing a great job. Also I visited the town library this summer and was amazed at the transformation from the school I once attended."

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Historical Society will be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2013, 7 pm at the museum.

Officers and Trustees

2012

<i>Co-President</i>	Grace Brigham
<i>Co-President</i>	David Rice
<i>Vice-President</i>	Marguerite Ponton
<i>Treasurer</i>	John Elwert
<i>Secretary</i>	Ruth Winkler

Trustees

Ann Ridlon	Richard Bettelli
Catherine Carrara	Fran Patten
Nancy Spencer	Al Ridlon, Sr.

Honorary Trustee: Bud Clark

Newsletter Editors

Ruth Winkler	Conrad Winkler
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Please visit our website at:
www.shrewsburyhistoricalsociety.com

Shrewsbury Historical Society, Inc.

An all-volunteer non-profit organization

5419 Route 103

Cuttingsville, Vermont 05738

Comments from Visitors

Notations from Comment Book in vestibule of museum for the year 2012:

"The memories flow - I attended church here - Christmas pageants as a child, photos, names and collectible items remind me of my childhood here in Cuttingsville!" /s/Carole Cook Hass

Chris Clark came by and shared short video of the 2011 flood by her house on Rt. 103, foot of Spring Lake Road, with her picnic table (prudently roped to a stout tree) bobbing in the raging water. The river broke into her cellar and gave her appliances a whirlpool bath.

"So wonderful to be home! I'll be back!" /s/Sue Sharp

"So happy/here at the right time, fun!" /s/Terence J. Morris

Visitors came from areas of VT; Glens Falls and Saratoga Springs, NY; MA, RI, Wisconsin & Germany

In Memoriam

Danny Korngiebel, age 84, passed away on Dec. 7, 2011. Danny was a Selectman for the Town in 1971, was a state representative and served with the Volunteer Fire Dept. of Shrewsbury. A former member, along with wife Emily, he is remembered for his knowledge of farm tools and was so helpful to the Society in naming them.

Claire Bailey Hooper, former Life Member, passed away on May 23, 2012 at her residence in Virginia. Claire spent her summers at the family homestead on Bailey Road. While here she attended meetings of the Society and donated some of her artifacts. She always had a lovely smile for everyone.

Tom Tomlinson, former member with his wife Marie, passed away on August 22, 2012. Tom was 92 and still active with his love for railroads. His handmade miniature Cuttingsville railroad station is shown in the Museum.

Polly Ridlon Wilson, former Life Member, passed away on Oct. 18, 2012 at age 89. She was Edgar Ridlon's first cousin. Polly would visit the museum in the summer and enjoyed watching it grow through the years.

Don Butler, former member and Past President, passed away on Nov. 16, 2012 at age 87. Don and his wife Lois owned and operated the Shrewsbury Inn for years in the village of Cuttingsville. He was a champion for the SHS and served as President in 1986, Vice President in 1991, 1992 and 1993, and a Trustee for many years. He had that expertise and *je ne sais quoi* at handling meetings and programs which was very much appreciated.

Society Sponsors

Rescued Horses Program

On Saturday, August 25, the SHS sponsored a program at Ludy Biddle's Beaver Meadow Farm in Shrewsbury. Biddle "adopted" 12 rescued race horses that would have been slaughtered had they not been rescued through the auspices of the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation of Saratoga Springs, NY. Along with two of Biddle's horses they made a beautiful tableau in the pastures of the 250- year- old farm, settled in 1761. (Addendum: the Nov. 2, 2012 issue of *The New York Times* covered the subject of the wanton slaughtering of former racehorses.)



About 50 interested townsfolk and friends enjoyed the historical presentation given by member Len Korzun about the area and the pioneers who settled there in the 1700s. In another room, a special table was set up with maps, books and documents which were interesting and very informative.

Tip Top Inn Memories

Member Grace Korzun remembers working at the Tip Top Inn (later Crown Point Inn and now Crisanver House) in the 40s and 50s during the summer season. Others who worked there before their marriage were: Donna Smith, Nancy Dana Wilson, Shirley Vining, and Bambi Weeks. Joe Patten also worked there.

The workers were housed in a former chicken coop which still had wire on the windows and bunk beds. Mrs. Wylie wanted the girls to wear different clothes for every meal, hence the chicken coop was so full of clothing it was hard to move around.

Grace also said she earned no more than \$100 for the summer. The girls were supposed to get tips but the guests were mostly older people who probably stayed for the whole summer, but were not wealthy and did not usually tip well.

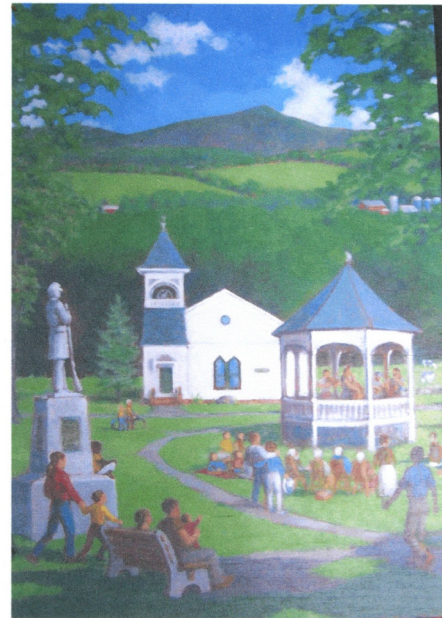
SHS Exhibits at 2012 Vermont History Expo



Richard Bettelli and Fran Patten

Once again, the SHS Expo Committee, consisting of Fran Patten, Richard Bettelli, Grace Brigham, Ruth Winkler and Bud and Edie Clark, joined the Vermont History Expo at Tunbridge on June 16 and 17. The theme this year was the Civil War and the SHS exhibited "Letters to Home" written in 1862-1863 by George Wellington Foster of Cuttingsville to his wife while he was serving as a drummer with the 14th Regiment, Company B during the Civil War.

Expo Poster



Shown above is the official poster for the Vermont History Expo 2012, created and painted by member Grace Brigham. Recognize the white church building?

Gifts to SHS, 2010 -- 2012

Kathy Scott, Colchester: digital photos sent by e-mail of grandfather John Holden Pratt and his sister, Lois C. Pratt (Russell) taken late 1880's.

Morris G. Tucker, Center Rutland: Town Report 1977; red brochure of Laurel Glen Mausoleum.

Conrad Winkler, Cuttingsville: 14 handmade lead soldiers, ca. 1930's.

Anne F. Spencer, Shrewsbury: Book, "Vermont Covered Bridges 1999".

Donald Oresman, N.Y.C., Booklet printed by steam press of George A. Tuttle in 1859 on "An Historical Address" by Henry Clark delivered at Hubbardton, VT on 82nd anniversary of Battle of Hubbardton.

Anne F. Spencer, Shrewsbury: Book, "Alexander Twilight: Vermont's Afro American Pioneer" by Michael T. Mahn.

Marga Richter, Shrewsbury: CD of her own work: "Riders to the Sea" Chamber Opera in one act. Kyrie, string quintet.

Anne F. Spencer, Shrewsbury: Book: "Women of Influence in Contemporary Music" by Michael K. Slayton w/section on Marga Skelly, summer resident. Also, small diary written by Orphia Colburn, born 1849 in Shrewsbury.

John Romano, Wallingford: four CCC photos received via e-mail of grandfather Lester Durfee, ca. 1930's, who rented Aldrich house near CCC camp.

David Rice, Shrewsbury: binder of five page of photos entitled "Will and Gertrude Pierce, their home, 1913 - 2001".

Shrewsbury Community Church, Shrewsbury Center: ten books dated 1800s from the Sunday School shelf.

Barry and Barbara Griffith, Shrewsbury: Portfolio w/photos and history of the History Hike to Russell's Split Rock Cave, Russellville.

Morris and Martha Tucker, Center Rutland: Two books, some history of Shrewsbury and Outing Club and Spring Lake.

Donna Smith, Shrewsbury Center: Flag/banner presented by Jim Jeffords to Town in 1976 from his Office in Washington, DC

Ernest Totter, Rutland: Bible from Ernest and Minnie Aldrich, given to Minnie from her mother, Maria Noyes, original marriage certificate, 50th wedding anniversary newspaper article, and photos.

Anne F. Spencer, Shrewsbury: Book "Calvin Coolidge" by David Greenberg.

Claire Hooper, Shrewsbury: electric clock made by Lloyd Stapleton, and a small chest made by Lloyd and painted by Mary Stapleton.

Marguerite Ponton, Shrewsbury: Unabridged Webster Dictionary of 1859, given to Fordyce Sanderson age 3 in 1906 by his grandfather.

Anne F. Spencer, Shrewsbury: Book by Terry John Woods entitled, "Summer House".

Preservation Trust of Vermont, owners of Pierce's House and Store: Booklet, "Vermont 1989 Travelers Guide" with photo of Piece's store on cover. Town Plan of Shrewsbury, VT with maps. Vermont Highways, 23d Biennial Report, State Highway 1965-66. State of Vermont Preliminary Legislative Manual, 1964. History of Forestry in Vermont, 50th anniversary 1909-1959 by Perry Merrill. Old ledger handwritten with customer accounts (Pierce's?). Envelope addressed to Miss Marjorie A Pierce 19th Anniversary First Man on Moon July 20, 1989. Marshall Space Flight Center. Box with military materials, Captain bars, Lieutenant bars, patches, etc. (probably belonged to Glendon Pierce). Spaulding family bible owned by Marjorie Pierce's mother, Gertrude (Spaulding). Biographical sketches of the members-elect of the Reapportioned General Assembly of 1967-68. Glass jar. Travelers Handbook. 1 small box with magnifying lens. 1 leather booklet belonging to Gertrude Spaulding, West Bridgewater, VT 1893..

Ahmet Baycu, Northam: CD of photos of Hurricane Irene in Northam.

Conrad Winkler, Cuttingsville: CD of collection of photos from Regina Stewart and also from internet of Hurricane Irene in Cuttingsville and Shrewsbury.

Ruth Winkler, Cuttingsville: Storage box of 250th Anniversary memorabilia from SHS programs, etc. Also a photo album "Hurricane Irene, 2011".

Donald and Patricia Oresman, NYC: Book written by Oresmans, "On Politics".

Anne F. Spencer, Shrewsbury: Items relating to Maurice H. Pelletier, 1937 CCC worker in Shrewsbury and Marshfield, VT.

Julanne Smith Sharrow, Shrewsbury: ration book of stamps used in WWII, 1943 car or truck metal tag, a silver medal "whatzit".

Karen Carrara, Shrewsbury: stencil from Aldrich cheese factory, book, "The Taste of Spruce Gum" and twelve diaries from the 1800s.

Anonymous Gift: Business sign: "Shrewsbury Gardens, daylilies, Green Mountain Originations,"

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(GIFTS from Page 4)

presumably belonged to Dick Johnson.

George Richards, Cuttingsville: Booklet on services for Elizabeth Sarcka, a clipping on dump festivities, and Inaugural poem read by Angelou, 1993.

Dorothy Rice, Shrewsbury: Album, "Wildflower Collection, Prepared by Edith G. Parker of Shrewsbury, Nov., 1917."

Ann Ridlon, Shrewsbury: Paperback novel, "Lucy E., Road to Victory" by Cassie Horner.

Marguerite Ponton, Shrewsbury: a funeral card for Warner Sanderson, 1888; an autograph book of Alan Sanderson, with entries dated late 1800's.

Roxanne Ramah, Shrewsbury: Four pew seat cushions from Community Center Church.

Society Members Nancy Spencer, Catherine Carrara and Kim Ridlon, Shrewsbury: Artifacts from the Pierce Family's attic, to add to the Pierce family

collection, w/permission of Preservation Trust of VT.

Tom & Donna Ryan, Shrewsbury: dvd, installation of double wide home on Northam Rd., Oct., 2012.

Union House Guest Ledger

The SHS exhibits an 1891-1895 guest book ledger for the Union House Tavern/Hotel. It is filled with signatures and addresses of guests using the elegant handwriting of those years plus information as to how many guests in the party and how many horses would need to be stabled. The ledger is a treasured memento.

Celebration Ball

From the SHS collection of dances held at the Union House, also known as Todd's Hotel, a placard that touts a Ball on Friday evening, July 3d, 1868. It reads "Your Company with Ladies is most Respectfully Solicited. Tickets, \$2.50. Music - Colby's Full Band."

Help Preserve Shrewsbury's History

Shrewsbury Historical Society's

2013 Annual Dues Request

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, due to the Internet and the our own website, we have seen a significant increase in the number of inquiries from folks researching their Shrewsbury ancestry. All such requests are answered.

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 SHS is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization.

Thank you for your support.

2013 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

Address _____

Donation _____

Dues and donations are tax deductible.

Taverns from Page One

In 1820, at the center, John Buckmaster received a license to operate a tavern. The tavern was operating until the 1840s, if not longer, and was a well known stopping place on the Woodstock Road.

Jeffrey Barney kept a tavern in his home on Route 103, corner of Spring Lake Rd., and from 1821 to 1824, Daniel Foster kept a tavern at the foot of Lincoln Road.

In 1836 Russell Lincoln acquired land near the foot of Lincoln Hill. It is not known if he operated a tavern, but he was cited for selling spirits without a license. The Shrewsbury Historical Society has an old timber dated 1799 from the ruins. Dances were held on the 2nd floor in the early 1900s. This building has since fallen down.

When Charles Cutting arrived in 1827 he built a tavern, later named the Union House. When Cutting left Cuttingsville in 1835 he sold all his remaining holdings to William Barnes. A few year later Barnes sold the tavern to Jeremiah Dow who remained until 1866, when Horace Todd assumed ownership. At various times Dow rented to different keepers – in 1850 to P. G. Alden and from 1860 to 1865 to Lawson Dawley.

In 1877 Todd sold to Dan Butterfield who made substantial improvements. The Union House could

accommodate 15 guests at \$5 each per week. The hotel was a popular center of social life for the area. People came by train from Rutland to attend dinners, dances, and whist parties. Fire destroyed the hotel in 1903 and a new one replaced it. Shortly thereafter, the town voted to go “dry”. The second building was never used as a tavern. Today it is owned by John C. Stewart & Son, Inc.

For three-quarters of a century the taverns flourished, providing entertainment for townsmen and travelers, but the railroad took away much of the innholders’ trade and eventually the taverns ceased operation. Gone were the genial rap of the toddy stick and the excitement caused by the clatter of the stage rolling into the old tavern yards.

Member Don Butler remembers that in 1978 when he and Lois purchased the Brick House in Cuttingsville with the intention to run a restaurant, they did not know the town was “dry”. They had to petition the town for permission to offer wine, beer and other alcoholic beverages at their “Shrewsbury Inn”.

Once again the genial rap of a toddy stick was heard in a tavern in the town.

Information from “Shrewsbury, Vt. - Our Town as it Was” by Dawn D. Hance.

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