



Times Past

Shrewsbury Historical Society Newsletter

Pierce Family Collection

Two summers ago, Nancy Spencer approached Paul Bruhn of the Vermont Preservation Trust about the many Pierce family items that were stored in boxes in the bedrooms and attic of the Pierce's home and store. With his permission, she was able to garner a box of items that are now in our museum.

The following summer, on a hot, August afternoon, three members which included Nancy, Kim Ridlon and Catherine Carrara, braved the heat and dust, and again went into the stored items in the Pierce's home. The many precious artifacts they chose were stored in the Historical Society's museum until the spring of this year. The museum committee met for several days and catalogued each piece, choosing those items that were on display this year and will be for next summer. The rest of the artifacts are stored in approximately 15 archival boxes.

Part of the Pierce Family Collection is devoted to the military uniforms worn during WW II belonging to Glendon and Gilford Pierce. There are many beautiful old books, special photo albums, a diary, Bible and many letters. One elaborate fragile photo album belonged to Marjorie's grandfather, Edwin Pierce, who was a Civil War veteran who fought in the repulse of Pickett's Charge during the Battle of Gettysburg.

There are items of clothing such as hats, gold shoes and a fancy black umbrella. It was hard to choose some of the old postcards from Marjorie's trips to Europe, she saved many. Some school memorabilia, among which is a copy of a handwritten autobiography that Marjorie wrote during her first year of college. Marjorie's diploma from the Sarbonne, Paris University, is also displayed.

The Society is honored to display a historical "Mammy's Bench" which the Pierce family placed on their back porch. The rocker bench is built so that it can accommodate a sitting person and a sleeping baby. The rocker had belonged to Marjorie's Great-grandmother Catherine Colburn Aldrich.



The Pierce Family Collection

Also there are items such as old tin cans and wooden keg stoppers from their store, and receipts on a special hook that hung on the wall. A recent donation by Larry Carrara was a pole reacher from the Pierce's store. Several wooden baby doll cribs, most likely built by one of the Pierce men, photos of the family, and a large drawing of the inside of the Pierce's store.

Presiding over all is the mannequin dressed in Marjorie's grandmother's wedding dress, the very dress Marjorie loved to wear at all historical events held in our town.



Mammy's Bench

More photos on Page Three

President's Note

It has been a pleasure serving as co-president with Con Winkler. I appreciate more than ever his continuing work to preserve Shrewsbury's history. Ruth Winkler's research and writing for the Society's newsletter has kept us informed with great style and wit. John Elwert skillfully manages the structural well-being of the museum building

Events of the 2013 season included Leonard Korzun's sharing of his ongoing study of Shrewsbury's agricultural history, and on the 13th of October, local journalist and author Karen Lorentz spoke about her book *Good Vermonters: The Pierces of North Shrewsbury*.

Grace Brigham, Co-President

Thanks to Grace Brigham for being my co-president. And to the museum committee who presented the Pierce Family Collection exhibit; to the volunteer members who staffed on Sundays; to Ann Ridlon and Kim Ridlon for the fine 2014 Memories calendar; to the program committee for presenting Karen Lorentz; to John Elwert for shoveling of snow and ice and caring for the copper decoration blown down off the bell tower; and to Al Ridlon Sr. for mowing summer lawns. For this and all the dedicated work of many of our members, I thank you.

Conrad Winkler, Co-President

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Historical Society will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2014, 7 pm at the museum.

Officers and Trustees 2013

<i>Co-President</i>	Grace Brigham
<i>Co-President</i>	Conrad Winkler
<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	Leonard Korzun

Honorary Trustee: Bud Clark

Newsletter Editors

Ruth Winkler	Conrad Winkler
Photos by Brian 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

SHS By-Laws Change

An amendment was made to the Shrewsbury Historical Society By-Laws on June 4, 2013, with respect to the date of the Annual Meeting. Article VI, Meetings, Sec. 1. It now reads: "The annual meeting and election of officers of the Society shall be held at the last meeting of the current year with notice by mail to the members at least two (2) weeks in advance."

In accordance with the amendment change, an annual meeting with election of officers was held on September 3, 2013. The elected officers for 2014 are: President, Grace Brigham; Vice-President, Marguerite Ponton; Treasurer, John Elwert; and Secretary, Ruth Winkler. New Trustees for 3 years: Catherine Carrara and Fran Patten.

In Memoriam

Edna Klein, former Life Member, passed away in the Spring of 2013. Edna had been ailing for a long time and yet, her sweet smile remained constant. One of our Champions, Edna always called to cheer the Society on with our endeavors to help keep Shrewsbury's history alive and interesting.

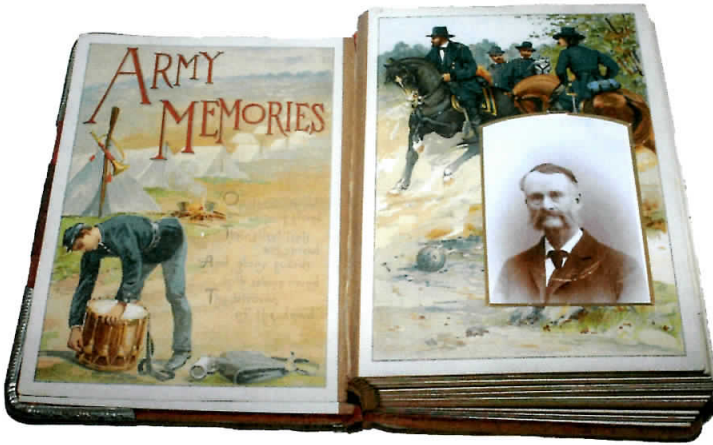
Jane Pratt Fitzpatrick, former Life Member since the founding of the Shrewsbury Historical Society, passed away on Nov. 9, 2013 at her home in Stockbridge, MA, ten days short of her 90th birthday.

Jane was born in Shrewsbury and attended a one-room schoolhouse for eight years and was the sole member of her class for seven of those years. She flourished at Rutland High School where she met her future husband, John (Jack) H. Fitzpatrick, to whom she was married for 66 years. Jack, also a former Life Member, passed away in 2011.

Jane was a born businesswoman beginning with the well known Country Curtains store and later owning and operating the Red Lion Inn at Stockbridge, MA, and Blantyre in Lenox, an intimate country house resort that is on the lists of top lodging properties in the U.S.

Whenever Jane would visit Cuttingsville, she would stop in to visit the Historical Society's museum and to say hello to her former friends.

Anthony B. Adams, former Life Member, passed away on Nov. 13, 2013 in Houston, TX. Mr. Adams was born in Shrewsbury in 1936, son of Arthur and Florence (Bartlett) Adams. He is survived by sister, Barbara Adams Hoar of Bennington, and was predeceased by brother, Dick Adams of Shrewsbury.



Civil War photo album belonged to Edwin Pierce, veteran.



On Sun., Oct. 13, Karen Lorentz, author of "GoodVermonters, The Pierces of N. Shrewsbury", presented a program relating stories about interviews with Marjorie Pierce, extolling her wit and memory.



WW II uniforms of brothers Glendon and Gilford.



Store photos, albums, miniature diary and a box camera.



Univ. of Paris diploma issued to Marjorie.



Hat, pin holder, gold shoes, black parasol and photo.

Gifts to SHS, 2013

Erik Hinckley & Eliot Ball, received photos via e-mail pertaining to Ted Hinckley's family and farm in Eastham.

Anne F. Spencer, Shrewsbury: Four books: "Girl of the People", "Alice Adams", "Now or Never", and "Eisenhower, The President".

Pierce Family Collection, papers and artifacts from the homestead, with permission of the Vermont Preservation Committee, consisting of 15 full boxes. The Museum Committee prepared exhibit using some of the items.

DVD, Main Street Landing, "Main Street Landing Presents The History of Burlington's Waterfront.

Julanne Smith Sharrow, Shrewsbury: One small license plate, 1943, #15072; one Kroll's stereoscopic Bilder folder.

Joe and Mary Patten, formerly of Cuttingsville: Collection of photographs and letters, ca 1890's to early 1900's pertaining to Foster, Pratt and Crowley families.

Charles Wiley, of Montpelier, VT, son of former owners of Tip Top Inn ca 1934 - 1950's: Collection of photos and post cards, now presented in a special album.

Marguerite Ponton, Shrewsbury: Brochure for "Emerald Lea Farm", Marguerite's aunt and uncle's summer lodgings in Shrewsbury.

Catherine Carrara, Shrewsbury: Acme adjustable dress form, mfr. Ellanam of Brooklyn, NY, ca early 1900's, plus photo of logo that is attached thereto..

Robert R. Perry, Marlborough, CT: Two framed photographs of Russellville, ca 1908.

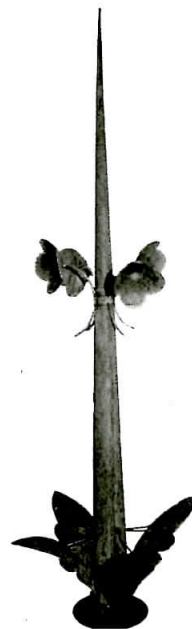
Rene Pollock, Shrewsbury: Many articles, booklets and notes pertaining to the Meeting House celebrations, restoration of the Pipe Organ, history of the Shrewsbury Community Church, brides' exhibit and garden, etc.

Steve Martyn, Cuttingsville: Copy of essay written by his mother, Edna, at age 14, about the Vermont flood of 1927.

Josh Ridlon and Ridlon Family, Cuttingsville: Found in old Ridlon barn, an empty 6" tall, narrow, light aqua glass bottle of Laudanum (Poison). Label: "Geo. W. Foster, Drug and Gen. Merchandise", Cuttingsville, VT, ca late 1800's.

Steve Martyn, Cuttingsville: Dr. H. S. Martyn, MD, cash account in ledger from 1895 to early 1900's, one page of diet on Dr. Martyn's stationery, plus book."Pathfinder #2, Hygiene for Young People, Property of State of Vermont, copyright, 1884-1885."

Gone With The Wind



On Friday, April 19, 2013 the tall pointed copper ornamental piece, now covered in verdigris, with two sections of decorative leaves and flowers, was blown down off the bell tower of the museum during a terrible wind burst. Luckily a neighbor spotted it, and called the chair of our House Committee John Elwert, who straightened the tall point. John also made a wooden stand so that it can now be admired inside the museum until it is replaced on the bell tower. Many visitors commented that they had never noticed it before, and that it is quite beautiful. It is also believed to have graced the bell tower since the rededication of the church in 1891.

Larry Carrara, Shrewsbury: A pole-reacher originally from the Pierce's Country Store, purchased by Carrara and used in his store.

Ted Hinckley, Towanda, PA: Transcript of diary of Ida Emily (Alin) Hinckley, Jan., 1912 to June, 1914 and excerpts from Ancestry, Vol. XLII, No. 2, April 2007, pages 58 to 65.

Anne F. Spencer, Shrewsbury: Book by local writer, Penelope Weiss.

Steve Martyn, Cuttingsville: A diploma issued to Dr. Herbert S. Martyn by Dartmouth, graduated in 1893.

Eliza Mabry Gibson, Shrewsbury: Large framed Certificate in Latin, pertaining to Dr. Herbert S. Martyn, purchased Aug. 31, 2013 at Martyn auction, Cuttingsville.

Jodie Buleya, E. Wallingford: Box of letters pertaining to Dr. Herbert Martyn purchased at auction.

John Stewart, So. Burlington, VT: Old textbook, inscribed "Mrs. G. P. Phalen, Cuttingsville" and used to paste up articles about Cuttingsville.

Dr. Martyn's Exhibit



Dr. Herbert S. Martyn's memorabilia was loaned to the Society by B.J. and Joan Stewart for October, 2013. The photo shows the doctor's brass sign that hung above his door, a Vermont license plate #126, registered in 1915, and various photos showing family members. Dr. Martyn practiced in Shrewsbury from early 1900s to 1940s.

W. W. Smith License Plate



Shown above is a photograph of Vermont License plate 7393 issued in 1914 to W. W. Smith of Shrewsbury. The car was a 19 HP Studebaker. This license plate made of enameled iron, is in the museum's Town Clerk's exhibit, together with a history of all Vermont license plates.

Help Preserve Shrewsbury's History

Shrewsbury Historical Society's

2014 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.

2014 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.

TIDBITS FROM HISTORY BOOK

On page 138 of *Shrewsbury, Vermont - Our Town As It Was* by Dawn D. Hance, the following tidbit:

“One Shrewsbury apple story was told by Thomas Gleason Russell. When he was a boy in Shrewsbury Center (W. H. Smith’s a), his family kept their apple barrels in the cellar. When his mother, Mary Gleason Russell, was going down to the cellar, she would reach into an apple barrel and take the ones starting to spoil to eat. ‘Don’t think she ate a good apple all winter’ said Uncle Tom.”

Another tidbit on page 154, a familiar old tale told in a Rutland paper in 1794:

“A farmer having settled in a country village on a little farm gained the esteem of the whole neighborhood. The first year had hardly expired when he lost a very fine cow, was the best of all his cattle, and he was extremely mortified of it; but this was nothing to the grief he felt in a short time afterwards when death took away his wife.

His neighbors thought they were obliged to comfort him. Honest farmer said one of them, do not afflict yourself, the wife you have lost was a good one it is true, but there is as good to be had. I have three daughters for my part; take your choice of them. Another offered his

sister; another his niece. Lord have mercy upon us, replied the farmer, it is better to lose one’s wife than one’s cow. My wife is hardly three hours dead, and here are half a dozen people already offering to supply her place for me, but when my cow died, the divil a one spoke of giving me another.”

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

January of 2013 marked the birthdays of two special members. On January 24th, member Edna Noyes Martyn celebrated her 100th birthday. Edna is now residing in the Springfield Rehabilitation Center in Springfield, Vermont..

And on January 26th, Life Member Ed Cook celebrated his 96th birthday. Ed is now living at the Maples in Rutland with his wife Irene.

We celebrate you both and wish you many more in good health.

VISITORS FROM AFAR

This year’s visitors who signed the Museum’s Guest Book came from the following states: New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Nevada, New York (Brooklyn, Cohoes, S. Glens Falls), Connecticut, Wisconsin, and MA.

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