

Times Past

Shrewsbury Historical Society
Newsletter

Brown Bridge, National Landmark



Shrewsbury's Brown Bridge Historic Landmark

On October 7, 2014, the Historical Society received a telephone call from Nicholas Olsen informing the Society that he just got word that the Brown Bridge in Shrewsbury, built by his great-great-great grandfather, Nicholas Montgomery Powers is now listed as a National Historic Landmark, and is the 18th National Historic Landmark in Vermont. Mr. Olsen's pride is matched by that of our town.

Built in 1880, the bridge qualifies because it is one of the most outstanding surviving examples of the lattice truss design, a widely popular construction method throughout the nation in the 19th century. According to *Shrewsbury, Vermont – Our Town As It Was* by Dawn D. Hance, the 1880 Town Report listed the cost for building the

bridge about \$700. It was named for the Brown family who lived nearby.

The town submitted the application in spring 2011, before Tropical Storm Irene, but it has taken until recently for the approval to go through. Town Clerk Mark Goodwin told *The Rutland Herald* "That bridge is more than just an attraction that leaf-peepers and tourists come to see; it's part of the town." *The Rutland Herald* went on to explain that although the bridge itself still stands after Irene, the main road leading to it was washed out by the 11 inches of water rushing through the area in August of 2011. The broken road has been closed to traffic since, but that has not stopped people from hiking down to visit the bridge.

The other 17 Vermont Historic Landmarks are: Calvin Coolidge Homestead, Plymouth Notch; Robert Frost Farm, Ripton; George Perkins Marsh Boyhood Home, Woodstock; Justin S. Morrill Homestead, Strafford; Mount Independence, Orwell; Naulakha (Rudyard Kipling's House), Dummerston; Robbins & Lawrence Armory & Machine Shop, Windsor; Rockingham Meeting House, Rockingham; Socialist Labor Party Hall, Barre; Rokeby, Ferrisburg; Round Church, Richmond; Shelburne Farms, Shelburne; St. Johnsbury Athenaem, St. Johnsbury; Stellafane Observatory, N. Springfield; Ticonderoga (Side Paddle-wheel Lakeboat), Shelburne; Vermont Statehouse, Montpelier; and Emma Willard House, Middlebury.

President's Note

Special thanks to our officers, trustees and members, and everyone who visited and supported our museum. This past season the Society is grateful for the new stories and artifacts received.

Ruth Winkler did some skillful sleuthing for genealogy quests. Con Winkler continues to preserve Shrewsbury's current history. John Elwert monitors the health of the historic building and he and Al Ridlon tend to mowing and plowing.

Ann Ridlon offers a wonderful Memories Calendar for 2015. The January photo of Lyle Van Guilder reminded me that he was Shrewsbury's Fire Warden before our Volunteer Fire Dept. was formed in 1952.

August photo shows Edith Tiernan standing beside Mitch Spencer's airplane. Edith was fondly remembered for trudging through the countryside in the middle of the night, hunting raccoons with her trusty hounds.

SHS did not exhibit at the History Expo in Tunbridge this year, instead choosing to attend and observe. Leonard Korzun was unquestionably the most successful! He attached a sign to himself inviting folks to talk with him about interesting historical things.

Grace Brigham, President

SHS OFFICERS FOR 2015

At the annual meeting held Sept. 2, 2014 the following officers were elected: President, Grace Brigham; Vice-President, Conrad Winkler; Treasurer, John Elwert; and Secretary, Ruth Winkler. Two Trustees voted in for a 3-year term: Ann Ridlon and Richard Bettelli.

Officers and Trustees 2014

<i>President</i>	Grace Brigham
<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
Photographer 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



On Sept. 18, 2014, a few members of the SHS greeted Crown Point Road Assoc. members at Shrewsbury Center on their week-long walk. Above, l-r, Barry Griffith, Ruth Winkler, Barbara Griffith, Con Winkler, Becky Tucker and Stacy McKiernan (who participated that day).

In Memoriam

Sally Jones, former member of the Society, passed away in January, 2014. Sally had been ailing for some time, but she always had that get up and go spirit. She enjoyed the museum and donated some artifacts which complemented the museum's exhibit on the Civil War, namely a Civil War sword and a children's book about the war which her children had read.

Edna Martyn, former member and neighbor to the museum, passed away at 101 years of age on April 26, 2014 in Springfield, Vt. Edna donated historical artifacts to the Society and enjoyed coming to special events held at the museum. Her son, Steve, often staffed the museum on Sundays. A beautiful reminder of Edna is the circle of daffodils which blooms each spring on the Martyn lawn.

*Senator Jim Jeffords, former member and supporter of the Historical Society, passed away on August 18, 2014. Member David Rice wrote in the *Times of Shrewsbury* that "Jim and wife Liz moved here in the 1960s with their energy and cheerfulness. Jim's law practice in Rutland attracted Shrewsbury clients, for he was honest, thorough, and capable. Liz had energy for the church, the school, and her neighbors. Both were a powerful force! Before long Jim headed for the State Legislature and public office. He moved to the U.S. Senate and set an example of forthrightness which made his fellow Vermonters proud. Someone once said that Vermont is not a place but a state of mind. Jim personified that point of view in terms of honesty, courage, wisdom, and community dedication."*

Past History of Shrewsbury Churches

The Shrewsbury Historical Society recently received a 10 page sermon, typed on onionskin, which was delivered on July 31, 1949 at the Shrewsbury Center Church about the History of the Churches in Shrewsbury. Some of the interesting highlights follow.

UNION CHURCH IN CUTTINGSVILLE

(Now the Historical Society Museum)

The Union Church in Cuttingsville was organized in 1842 by the Baptist and Congregational Society, a small and struggling group. Calvin Robinson sold the land now occupied by the church (2014, now the SHS Museum). The terms of the agreement called for \$100 on consideration that the land be used for a meeting house, and “on consideration of building fence, good and lawful, and at all times to keep in good and sufficient repair for turning all orderly cattle.”

The article then went on to say that “the cushion now in one of the front pews was placed there by Ellen Jones, mother of George Jones. It was her answer to her husband, who refused to go to church because the seats were too hard. She had the cushion made and then waited for the next excuse.”

There never was a resident pastor in Cuttingsville, but the village shared with Belmont, or Mechanicsville, as it was known then. But there have been interesting personalities preaching at the Union Church. There was an Elder Russell, who liked his likker [sic] a little too much. He was tactful enough to buy it in Rutland, but the Deacons met him on the train one day and his breath was not Methodist!

Then, Elder Forrest was violently anti-liquor. At the funeral of one stalwart citizen, J. B. Snyder, a man who drank, but moderately, the Reverend could see nothing but Hell in sight.

Elder Handy arrived in town with a bay-colt pacer, fast and sightly. It wasn't long before a race was arranged between his pacer and a black colt belonging to the Bowman estate. Held on the ice at what is now called Spring Lake, the contest ended in a draw. It wasn't long, however, before the presiding elder, or district superintendent, heard – and suggested – that Elder Handy acquire a slower horse, one more appropriate for a minister.

Reverend Jepson was a baseball player. In fact, he had turned down a \$5000 offer in order to become a minister.

But he did manage to umpire the local baseball games.

Another athletic type was Dave Edwards who often demonstrated his prowess. He had been a professional boxer at one time. While he was waiting at Stewart's garage, a profane truck driver strode in and used the name of Christ. Edwards is supposed to have grabbed the blasphemer by the collar and said “Don't talk about my friend that way”, and presumably he did not – at least not in Cuttingsville.

It was because of the Union Church that Olaf Johnson, pastor here from 1937 to 1942, is a Methodist and not a Baptist. When he appeared before the Baptist ordination committee, they were shocked to find that he had baptized infants and still persisted, for that was part of his job here.

So, in Johnson's words, “We parted, to go our separate ways.” He is now a Methodist minister at Castleton, father of four boys.

UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

at Shrewsbury Center

The Universalist Church building was erected in 1804 or 05 and was known as the Town Meeting House. It was in June 1807 that a committee of religious persons met and requested Archelaus Jones to notify the Town Clerk, John Kilburn, Jr., of their intention to form in Shrewsbury “a society of that denomination of Christian called Universalist.” Accordingly, a meeting was officially announced and held in July, 1807 for residents of Shrewsbury, Plymouth, and Clarendon, and the society was organized with 32 original members. As far as the records reveal, there have never been regular, resident pastors serving this church. In 1838, the records show that ordination was conferred on Harry Giffon, one of the members of the society, and that four ministers from New York and Vermont were present.

In 1840 the Universalists voted to aid the Christian Society in the building of the Union Meeting House in North Shrewsbury. Whether this meant that the Town Meeting House was not available for some reason cannot be found out. However, we do know that sometime later, this sanctuary was decorated and equipped with its present accoutrements. The pulpit was hand-carved and presented by Henry Aldrich Waterman, grandfather of Hugh Ridlon of Cuttingsville. The organ, one of the first and best of pipe organs in Vermont, was donated by Henry Smith, great-uncle of Harold and Willard Smith.

(Continued on Page Five)

From Past ... "Times Past" 1999 - 2013

Number One – 1999

On Dec. 10, 1998, Lee Wilson, Chairman of Board of Trustees of the Shrewsbury Community Church, and Conrad Winkler, President of the Shrewsbury Historical Society, met to sign agreement papers and to transfer the deed of the Cuttingsville Church to the Shrewsbury Historical Society.

On Aug. 7, 1999, a private showing of the new museum was held for members. Honorary Trustee Marjorie Pierce and Senator and Mrs. Jim Jeffords attended, along with many others. On Aug. 14 and 15, the Society held its grand opening to all Shrewsbury townspeople.

Number Two – 2000

The SHS was granted request from the Vt. Museum and Gallery Alliance Collections Care Committee for a special hepa filter vacuum and from the Vt. Historical Society Cultural Facilities which allowed \$1,575 towards total cost of \$3,150 for an oil-fired furnace.

Number Three – 2001

Lead story covered the history of the museum building which was built in 1842 on "40 square rods of land" given by Calvin Robinson to the Baptists and Congregationalists. The Methodists leased the building in 1859, and in 1890 the building was renovated. In 1950, the Northam Church, Shrewsbury Center Church and Cuttingsville Church joined to form the Shrewsbury Community Church.

On Sept. 11, the U.S. was attacked by acts of terrorism. On Fri., Sept. 14, the Day of Remembrance, Life Member Fred Sargeant raised the American flag on the museum building and prepared a light so that the flag could fly both day and night, while members Don and Lois Butler rang the bell in the tower at 12 noon.

Number Four – 2002

The museum committee chose the theme based on the life and loves of John P. Bowman, which was exhibited at the Vermont History Expo in Tunbridge. The center exhibit in the museum this year featured the Green Mountain Railroad on a train board.

Number Five – 2003

The front page featured the memorial rock and two small stones in front of the museum building honoring three brave young men of Cuttingsville who died in the service of their country. They are 1st Lieut. George Wallace Foster, World War I, and Pvt. Francis Lewis Trombley and Gunners Mate 3rd class Raymond Richard

Geehan, both in World War II.

The SHS presented a One-Room Schoolhouse Reunion on Aug. 23. There were 38 former students, some from the 1930's.

Number Six – 2004

On Nov. 21, the SHS program committee co-chaired with the Shrewsbury Community church committee to present a program celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the Shrewsbury Meeting House.

The only remaining "ash house" in Shrewsbury was found and photographed by member Dick Adams. Settlers used the ash house to store ashes that provided the lye which in turn made soap.

Number Seven – 2005

The SHS had a handicap accessible earthen ramp, landing and second exit/entrance to the museum added on to 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.

Quests for genealogy are plentiful due to the technology of the day and the SHS was happy to find where a burial site was for an ancestor of Wendy Kuntz, who resides in Hawaii. Her ancestor's name was Samuel Low who fought in the Revolutionary War, and had resided in Shrewsbury. In September, Kuntz, along with many relatives, followed us to the Center Cemetery and were led to the grave sites. They were very touched with the fact that a new American flag was placed at the grave.

Number Eight – 2006

On August 20, the Town of Shrewsbury gathered together to honor U.S. Senator James Jeffords and wife Liz, on the forthcoming retirement of Jim from Congress the end of the year. The SHS prepared five panels of photographs of the Jeffords through the years.

Descendents Bill and Joyce Wopat of Wisconsin visited Shrewsbury to honor Captain Lemuel White's gravesite in the Center Cemetery. White is Wopat's 6th generation great grandfather, and was Shrewsbury's first permanent settler in 1776, who lived and operated a tavern on Lot #1 (now known as Smith/Sharrow's Pine Valley Farm).

Number Nine – 2007

The cover story this year was the 80th Anniversary of the 1927 Flood, which was devastating to New England. The Mill River bridge in Cuttingsville was torn apart and the



Above is exhibit shown in museum this year. The cardboard replica of the Statue of Liberty was created by Grace Brigham for Marjorie Pierce's recitation as Lady Liberty in 1986.

School children were treated when Marjorie would hide behind the statue and recite a wonderful speech pretending to be the Statue of Liberty beginning with the fact that she was 100 years old and a gift from the French citizens in 1886. But for this exhibit in 2014, hiding behind the statue was a CD player, playing the CD of Marjorie's voice reciting the speech that the Society had in its collection.

CHURCHES from Page Three

At that time the place was supplied with the present pews, which replaced movable wooden benches. When the choir sang in the rear of the church it was customary for the congregation to turn completely around and watch the singers. During the rededication ceremonies, two noteworthy incidents occurred which legend has transmitted. One of the best liked town fathers, a rabid speechmaker, in his customary style, addressed the gathering as "Ladies, Gentlemen, and Female Women".

Present were three pompous Universalist ministers, and the presiding minister, Rev. Johnson. The Advent Minister of Northam, a much loved though humble man, peeked in the rear door and was spotted by the Rev. Johnson, who called upon him to come forward. The startled Advent Minister came forward to sit on the platform, with only his white shirt and bright red galluses for such a formal occasion.

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH in North Shrewsbury

The Christian Church was formed in Lyndonville, VT,

and early meetings were held in North Shrewsbury in 1818 in Moses Colburn's barn, or if weather permitted, at the Meeting House Rock. Legend has it that some members of the Russell family, descendants of whom still reside here in Shrewsbury, were married at the rock. The two were Alonzo Russell and Phoebe Gould.

The church building was begun in 1840, with the formation of the Union Meeting House Society and aided by a grant of land in 1841 from Nahum R. and Pearl Parker. Parker, though his name sounds different, was a man, the grandfather of Robert LeFevre, and he died at the present LeFevre place. The Universalists aided in the building of the church.

In the earliest days, the key for the hymns was struck on a tuning fork by Benjamin Philbrick. Later, the tuning fork gave place to a bass viol played by Parker Russell, and a melodian was later used. The present Harry Russell states that he played a violin in the church in his youth. The bell was purchased in 1869 and Quincy A. Wheeler first rang it, and also tolled it 100 times for the Centennial, though he was then in his 84th year.

THE ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH Cold River

The Advent Christian Church in Cold River has the shortest but the most varied history. The organization began in 1878 and took charge of the services in the Northam Church until 1894. Then the Christian Church reorganized. The Adventists remained for about 10 years, but in 1903 began building the present building on land given by Daniel Balch "for \$1.00 and other valuable considerations."

The society failed and in 1925 the property was sold to Timothy A. Cheedle and his wife. Again, there were no regular services, so in 1941, the building and land was sold to the Friends of St. Francis, ostensibly for a Roman Catholic retreat for older people and the poor. The deed was signed by Allan Sheldon of Rutland, who was manager of the farm; Clayton Stewart of Cuttingsville; Agnes Ready of Proctor; and John F. Carbine of Rutland.

This venture met with no better success, so in 1948 the property was sold to the Kister family for their personal use. The church had never been consecrated as a Catholic church, and now serves only for storage.

river rampaged down to the bridge by Spring Lake Road, taking that down also. A foot bridge was erected across the river near where the bridge had been in the village.

Number Ten – 2008

In the years 1899 - 1900, John George Brown, the celebrated artist of genre scenes in America came to Cuttingsville in the summer to paint several scenes of rural Vermont life. He stayed at the Union House (now site of John C. Stewart & Sons Ford Agency) and then set the scene for some of his paintings in a barn across the way. The models who posed were Peter Lovejoy, John Smalley and Mrs. Boutwell. Prints of these three paintings are exhibited in the museum.

Nancy Bell of Shrewsbury captivated an audience with her beautiful slides of bear habitat with interesting narration. As Vermont Director of the Conservation Fund and Field Director since 1995, Bell has helped conserve almost a half million acres of land.

Number Eleven – 2009

The cover story featured the Civil War Letters to Home, 64 in all, from 22- year-old George Wellington Foster of Cuttingsville, to his bride Leona Foster. Foster volunteered for nine months in the 14th Vermont Infantry, Company B, to answer President Abraham Lincoln's call for additional troops. The letters have been transcribed and are kept in a special album in the museum.

In celebration of the 250th year of the Crown Point Road, several members of the SHS met members of the Crown Point Road Association at Smith/Sharrow Pine Valley Farm on their end-to-end walk on the road from Crown Point, NY to Fort #4, Charlestown, NH. The road was used during the French and Indian and Revolutionary wars and travels through our town.

Number Twelve – 2010

Complementing the Civil War Letters to Home exhibit, the SHS was most pleased to show the beautiful hand-made Civil War-era hoop-skirted dress made by Clara Krueger, daughter of Arthur and Trish Norton Krueger. Clara was 16 years old when she started sewing the dress and it took a year and a half to finish.

Shown at the "Back to the Land Again" theme at the History Expo in Tunbridge, under the direction of Fran Patten and Richard Bettelli, with help of Bud Clark,

John Elwert and Grace Brigham, hand-made dioramas featured three local farms, constructed by Manolo Zelkin, and Emmett and Cedell Sirjane. The farmers featured were Bob and Judy Landon, Arthur and Trish Norton Krueger and Grace Brigham

Number Thirteen – 2011

Shrewsbury celebrates its 250th Anniversary. For over two years the SHS planned exhibits and special events to celebrate this event. On August 28, Hurricane Irene blew away many of the planned events. However, on Sept. 3, a special cachet envelope designed by Con Winkler and Grace Brigham with a 250th Anniversary postmark were made available and sold at the museum. On Sept. 4, 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.

A Special 250th Anniversary Pullout Section

This issue enclosed a special insert covering the history of Shrewsbury and a copy of the Charter signed on September 4, 1761 by Benning Wentworth, Governor of the Province of New Hampshire.

Number Fourteen – 2012

There was many a tavern in our town beginning in 1776 when the town's first settler, Lemuel White had operated one. White was probably still operating the tavern when he died in 1812 due to the epidemic, as did nearly all of the local tavern keepers, possibly caught from travelers.

With SHS pride, the official Vermont History Expo 2012 Poster was painted by member Grace Brigham.

Number Fifteen – 2013

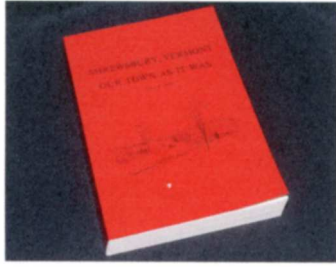
The lead story in this issue featured the Pierce Family Collection. Members Anne Spencer, Kim Ridlon and Catherine Carrara, with approval of the Vermont Preservation Trust, found many interesting artifacts and photos in the Pierce's upstairs and attic.

On April 19, a terrible wind burst blew down the ornamental piece that graced the bell tower since the rededication of the church in 1891. Life Member John Elwert straightened it and made a stand so that it can be admired inside the museum vestibule until such time when it can be replaced on the bell tower.

TOLLING OF THE BELLS

The SHS, along with other towns historical societies, were asked to ring their bells at 4 pm, May 5th, 2014 to commemorate the 1,234 VT men of the First VT Brigade who were killed or wounded at Battle of the Wilderness in VA on May 5, 1864. Our bell tolled 12 times.

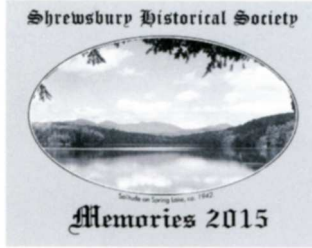
Ye Olde Holiday Gift Shoppe



History Book

“Shrewsbury, Vt. - Our Town As It Was” by Dawn D. Hance, has 320 pages, is soft covered in red with gold lettering. Early history of Shrewsbury up to 1910.

\$26. (Includes shipping)



2015 Calendar

This year’s collectable Shrewsbury Historical Society’s Memories 2015 Calendar with 15 vintage photographs of yesteryear.

\$17. (Includes shopping)



250th Envelope

Shrewsbury Historical Society’s special 250th Anniversary Commemorative Envelope, with artwork by Grace Brigham and a special, unique postmark.

\$4. (Includes shipping)

**When ordering, please mail list of your items, name and address and check covering same to:
Shrewsbury Historical Society, 5419 Route 103, Cuttingsville, VT 05738**

Help Preserve Shrewsbury’s History Shrewsbury Historical Society’s 2015 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.

2015 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

Donation _____

Dues and donations are tax deductible.



This signed quilt, dated January 12, 1887, known as the Waterman Quilt, was donated to the Society by the families of Bruce LaPoint, Margaret Field, and Alicia Marcelino in memory of Marion Ackley LaPoint. Fourteen of the 15 signatures were researched and identified, one still unknown. The quilt is in remarkably good condition and its colors are bright and beautiful.

Gifts to SHS, 2014

8th Grade Students of Hartford Memorial School, White River Junction, VT: Packet with research about Isaac Needham, Civil War soldier from Shrewsbury.

Sarah Gibson, Shrewsbury: CD of oral history with several members of our town.

Lynn McDermott, Shrewsbury: Many items that belonged to the Russell Family in Russellville, found in the attic of the former Russell home.

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B J Stewart, Cuttingsville: Graduation Exercises of 1911, 8 postcards of 1927 flood.

Morris Tucker, Center Rutland, VT: wood cutout of Moose & Cow , 1986, made by Shackett.

Joan Stewart, Cuttingsville: Several homemade items of clothing belonged to maternal Aunt and great grandmother.

Rutland Historical Society, via Carolynn Ranftle, Rutland, VT: 28 Town Reports, various papers.

Alicia Marcelino, Shelburne, VT: Handmade quilt originally made by Kate Waterman & Family, 1887.

Julanne Sharrow, Shrewsbury: Various photos, manuals, found in family attic.

Lois Joyce, Springfield, VT: Photo copy of sampler stitched by Naomi Pierce, at 13 years of age, in 1825.

Gary Fiske, Hinsdale, NH: Items from Union House dances in 1894 and 1895, business card of Union House, photo of Spring Lake, and glass bottle "Sarihach Joe's Nectar".

Dawn D. Hance, Rutland, VT: Copy of Marriage Booklet of Gilford and Florence Smith, July 19, 1942.

Kim Ridlon, Cuttingsville: Cook book prepared by the Ladies Auxiliary of Shrewsbury Vol. Fire Dept. in the 1980s, which had belonged to Edna Ridlon.

Bud & Edie Clark, Shrewsbury: Mahogany corner knick-knack shelf.

Grace Brigham, Cuttingsville: Aldrich notebook and a wedding booklet of W. E. Pierce and wife Gertrude.