



# Times Past

Shrewsbury Historical Society  
Newsletter

## 1999 - The Year in Review

### *A Very Good Deed*

On December 30, 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 Historical Society, thus ending more than a year's worth of meetings between the Society's Ad Hoc Committee and the Trustees of the church for acquisition of the building as a new location for the Historical Society's museum. The Ad Hoc Committee for the Society was comprised of Merrill (Bud) Clark, Heidi Mitchell, Bernard J. Stewart, Richard Wiedmann and Con Winkler, Chair.

On December 31, 1998, Bud Clark and Con Winkler had the deed recorded at the Town Clerk's office and submitted the property transfer tax form with a check for tax due to the state.

In the December, 1998 issue of the *Times of Shrewsbury*, Con Winkler, in a letter to the Shrewsbury Community Church, expressed the Historical Society's appreciation with these words: "The Cuttingsville Church is a beautiful, historic building and we will accord it all the honor and respect it deserves. The Historical Society will look after it with tender, loving care."

### *The Big Move*

Beginning in March and continuing to August, the Museum Committee and volunteers met to pack up artifacts from the former location on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Shrewsbury Library, move them to the church building, unpack and prepare new exhibits for a summer opening in the new location on Route 103 in the village of Cuttingsville. Due to furnace breakdown, much of the work was done in the cold. In the meantime, member Joan Stewart cleaned up the old quarters thus affording the Library a brand new room to expand into.

### *Annual Meeting*

At the June 7, 1999 annual meeting, the following officers were named: President, Con Winkler; Vice President, Fran Patten; Treasurer, Bud Clark; and Secretary, Ruth Winkler. Trustees: 3 years, Gloria Benson and John Elwert; 2 years, Don Butler and Al Ridlon, Sr. to fill in for Fran Patten; and one year remains for Paul Anthony and Liesbeth van der Heijden. A special title "Honorary Trustee" was bestowed on Marjorie Pierce. The President formed the following committees: HOUSE: Bud Clark, Chair; Al Ridlon, Sr., Paul Anthony, John Elwert and Richard Wiedmann. MUSEUM: Fran Patten, Chair; Lois Butler, Ruth Winkler and Anne (Nancy) Spencer, who will be in charge of photographs and genealogy. A sub-committee of the Museum Committee will be CONSERVATION consisting of Nancy Spencer and Liesbeth van der Heijden, co-chairmen. VIDEO INTERVIEW: Con and Ruth Winkler. PROGRAM: Richard Wiedmann. (Continued on next page)

### Calendar Notes

#### *January 1999*

The SHS applied to the Town of Shrewsbury with a request of \$2000 for help in maintaining and operating the new museum. Request was warned as a line item and was approved in March by a large majority of voters.

#### *February 1999*

The SHS answered the Vt. Historical Society's request for information on our museum and we are now on the VHS Home Page/Local Historical Societies Index, web site. Also, our new museum was listed in the Postings column of the Vt. Historical Society's winter issue of "In Context." Information was also sent to the editors of "The Directory of Historical Organizations in U.S. & Canada," published by American Assoc. for State & Local History.

#### *March 1999*

The SHS received a matching grant of \$200 from the Vt. Museum and Gallery Alliance which covered a survey of our collection, a visit to our new location in the church building, and an 11-page *Collections Management Report*.

An addition to the Society's "In Memory Of" scroll was requested by John C. Stewart to include parents Freda and Clayton J. Stewart, Sr. and nephew Tim Stewart.

#### *April 1999*

Three new video tapes were added to our collection: the moving of Edgar Ridlon's House, the funeral procession by the Shrewsbury Vol. Fire Dept. in honor of Tim Stewart, and an interview with Frances and George Brigham.

#### *May 1999*

A new Shrewsbury Historical Society banner was designed and sewn by Fran Patten.

On May 22, the Fund Raising Committee consisting of Joan Stewart and Liesbeth van der Heijden and volunteers Ann Ridlon, Gloria Benson and Ruth Winkler held a "Plant and Food Sale" on the lawn in front of the church building, realizing a profit of \$838.05 through the cooperation of members and friends.

The Museum was designated a 911 number - #5419 - and B-J Stewart prepared and posted the number on the building.

#### *July 1999*

The Town's Board of Listers granted the SHS a non-taxable property status for the church building.

#### *August 1999*

NEW LIFE MEMBERS: Mike Benson, Al and Ann Ridlon, Sr., Claire Hooper, John Van Hoesen and Fred Sargeant.

The House Committee had the electrical system in the building updated and many new outlets were installed.

The museum staff members were given free admission cards to certain museums and regular members 10 per cent off admission with membership card.

*(Annual Meeting Continued)*

CURRENT HISTORY SCRAPBOOK: Con Winkler.  
REFRESHMENTS: Christel Wiedmann. PUBLICITY:  
Don Butler.

## *Private Showing*

On August 7<sup>th</sup>, a private showing of the new museum was held for Historical Society members. Honorary Trustee Marjorie Pierce and Senator and Mrs. Jim Jeffords attended, along with many others. There were several new exhibits among which were the making of butter, Shrewsbury Grange artifacts, an exhibit on the church building itself, memorabilia of Marjorie Pierce and family. Old favorites were also in place such as Doris Erb's shadow box of Town Board members, Patrick Farrow's sculpture "The Castle Tree," and children's toys.

## *Grand Opening*

The *Times of Shrewsbury*, August issue, announced "A Very Special Invitation" to all Shrewsbury townspeople to the Grand Opening of the newly relocated museum in the Cuttingsville church building on Route 103 in the heart of Cuttingsville, on Saturday and Sunday, August 14 and 15, 1999 between the hours of 1 to 4 PM.

Over 100 people attended and enjoyed the museum and the special refreshments prepared by members. A gift of 6 mum plants arrived for the decoration of the front steps and another gift of a bouquet of gladioli graced the foyer.

## *Request for Grants*

Two more grants were applied for. One from the Vt. Historical Society Cultural Facilities for a grant for an oil-fired furnace, with a total cost of \$3,150., amount of grant requested: \$1,575., which we will match. And a Vt. Museum and Gallery Alliance grant for a hepa filter vacuum, total \$758.95, amount of grant \$252.98, which we will add \$505.97. The Society will be notified in January 2000 if either or both grant requests will be awarded to the Society.

## *DAR Visits Museum*

On October 14, 1999, neither wind nor rain nor sleet nor snow deterred the Ann Story Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution from visiting the museum. About 18 ladies were welcomed by President Con Winkler and Fran Patten, Chair, Anne Spencer and Ruth Winkler of the Museum Committee, who spoke to the group and informed them on the various exhibits in the museum. Genealogy, old school books, the children's corner and the Huntoon House exhibit interested many. Julanne Sharrow of Shrewsbury arranged for the DAR's visit.

## *Plans for the Future*

For the year 2000 and future years, plans are "in the works" for a new heating system, chimney repair, painting the building and construction of a physically challenged ramp. The painting of the building will be a major cost, possibly making it a 2 or 3 year project.

In the spring, the Ladies Club of Shrewsbury plan to have a millennium tree planted in front of the building.

An Ad Hoc sign committee, consisting of Bud Clark, Lois Butler and John Elwert, is in the process of designing a sign for in front of the museum, using a generous donation of a Life Member. Bud Clark has requested a permit from the Town for the sign.

Plans for photographing homes in Shrewsbury in the year 2000 are being discussed.

Do you have a small, unknown object that the SHS could borrow to add to the "What's This?" basket? Also, any ideas for the year 2000 museum exhibits? Please contact Nancy Spencer at 492-3378.

## **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Membership in the Society extends over the calendar year. Year 2000 dues are now payable in January.

Individual	\$10	Contributing	\$30
Family	\$15	Life (Individual/Couple)	\$125

*Please remit to:*

Shrewsbury Historical Society, Inc.  
2568 Lincoln Hill Road  
Shrewsbury, VT 05738

*(August Calendar Continued)*

On August 19, Richard Wiedmann, Program Chair, planned a visit to the Windsor Machine Museum and the historic Constitution House. Many members and guests enjoyed the tour.

## *September 1999*

**BY-LAW CHANGES:** The SHS approved By-Law changes that the annual meeting be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in April, and that the fiscal year be the calendar year. Added, also, was that the termination of the Society shall be accomplished under the provisions in the Articles of Association.

Museum Committee members Nancy Spencer, Liesbeth van der Heijden and Fran Patten have attended workshops throughout the state regarding the care and nurturing of a museum.

## *October 1999*

A letter was mailed to the Board of Selectmen requesting \$2000 for operating expenses for the museum, and that said funding request be included in the Select Board budget for the year 2000.

The SHS museum remained open on Saturdays and Sundays until Halloween, 1999. The Society was most gratified to see so many townspeople and visitors enjoying their visits to the new museum.

Mike Benson was added to the House Committee. Ann Ridlon and Gloria Benson were named co-chairmen of the Fund Raising Committee.

## *November 1999*

House Chair Bud Clark arranged to have the steeple leak repaired. Bud and Con will monitor said repair.

The Museum committee is in the process of preparing the museum for the winter.

Due to furnace breakdown, inventory was canceled and will be done next spring.

Nancy Spencer has handled approximately 20 requests for genealogy information this year.

## **MANY THANKS**

To the members of the Society who staffed the museum this past year: Gloria and Mike Benson, Richard Bettelli, Lois and Don Butler, John Elwert, Fran Patton, Ann and Al Ridlon, Nancy Spencer, Chris and Richard Wiedmann and Ruth and Con Winkler.

## *Coming Events*

- ✓ Annual Meeting, Thurs. April 13
- ✓ Plant and Bake Sale, Date to be set in May
- ✓ Museum Opens, Sat. July 1

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**Shrewsbury Historical Society, Inc.**

A Non-Profit Organization

Route 103

Cuttingsville, Vermont 05738