



Times Past

Shrewsbury Historical Society
Newsletter

Shrewsbury Welcomes Home Jim and Liz



Senator James Jeffords and Liz arrive via Shrewsbury VFD truck.

On August 20th, 2006, the Town of Shrewsbury gathered together to honor United States Senator James Jeffords and wife Liz, on the forthcoming retirement of Jim from Congress the end of this year.

Senator Jeffords was a Vermont State Senator from Rutland; State Vermont Attorney General; elected to U.S. House of Representatives from January 3, 1975 to January 3, 1989, serving seven terms; elected to U.S. Senate in 1988, reelected in 1994 and again in 2000 for term ending January 3, 2007. Senator Jeffords served for 32 years in Congress.

The Town Hall was shining and decorated with many bouquets of flowers from Shrewsbury gardens. At the side entrance, a bower of branches, vines and flowers stood tall, with a chalked message underfoot reading "Welcome Home". Inside the tables were set with finger foods prepared by the people of Shrewsbury. A cake baked by Deedee Erb in the form

of the Capitol Building, was complete with golden dome topped with tiny Vermont and U.S. flags.



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President's Note

This has been a successful year for the Shrewsbury Historical Society.

In May, Michael Tougas gave a slide presentation entitled "400 Miles Down the Connecticut River."

The SHS exhibit at the History Expo in June at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds was "Til the Cows Come Home" featuring the Smith/Sharrow farm.

The spring annual Plant and Bake sale and the Fall Food Fest were successful fund raising projects.

A new fund raising project this year was the Memories Calendar for 2007 featuring photos from the past. It was very well received.

In August, the Historical Society was involved with the planning and presenting of the town-wide celebration in honor of retiring Sen. Jim Jeffords and wife, Liz at the Town Hall.

This fall, members Barry and Barbara Griffith gave a presentation about the Crown Point Road and how it passes through Shrewsbury. The public was invited to this presentation which preceded the business meeting.

Plans are underway to paint the inside of the museum and replace damaged tin tiles in the vestibule this winter.

My thanks to all the officers, committees, members and all our friends for all that they do for the Society. Without your help we would not meet with the successes that we do. It has been a joy to work with all the wonderful people of Shrewsbury.

Marguerite Ponton

Officers and Trustees

2006

<i>President</i>	Marguerite Ponton
<i>Vice President</i>	Fran Patten
<i>Treasurer</i>	John Elwert
<i>Secretary</i>	Ruth Winkler

Trustees

Bud Clark	Ann Ridlon
Betsy Bennett	Al Ridlon, Sr.
Don Butler	Richard Bettelli

Newsletter Editors

Ruth Winkler	Conrad Winkler
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Shrewsbury Historical Society, Inc.

(A non-profit organization)

5419 Route 103
Cuttingsville, Vermont 05738

Moose/Cow Love Story 20th Anniversary Program



Larry Carrara and the moose's antlers.

On October 24th, the library presented a special program about the famous moose and Jessica, the cow, who lived on Larry Carrara's farm in North Shrewsbury for 76 days, in the winter of 1986-87.

Twenty years ago, the SHS prepared a videotape of news stories from all over the world that were shown on various TV channels, plus photos of the famous pair. This tape was shown to the children and parents who attended, and is part of the Society's collection.

Larry brought the antlers that were shed by the moose, and let the children hold them. There was also a large scrapbook of clippings that the Society had saved for everyone to enjoy.

Crown Point Rd. Presentation



Barry and Barbara Griffith

On October 24th, 2006 life members Barry and Barbara Griffith presented an interesting program about the Crown Point Road, its beginnings in time, and where it was located in the Town of Shrewsbury. Members and guests enjoyed the question and answer period which followed.

Capt. Lemuel White's Descendents

In July of this year, Joyce and Bill Wopat of Ontario, Wisconsin, visited Shrewsbury for almost a week to find his six times great grandfather's grave site. He contacted the Historical Society for information and discovered that his ancestor was the first permanent settler in Shrewsbury. Capt. Lemuel White built a home and a tavern on lot #1, which is now the site of the Smith/Sharrow dairy farm.



Captain Lemuel White's grave site.

Capt. White's grave and that of his wife, Zilpha, were located in the Shrewsbury Center Cemetery.

The Wopats enjoyed their stay at the Maple Crest Farm and while here, visited the museum, spent a day at the Hubbardton Revolutionary War Re-enactment, visited Ticonderoga, traced the Crown Point Road section in Shrewsbury, and visited Calvin Coolidge's home site in Plymouth.

Coincidentally, in October, a visitor to the museum named Carmen Seuffert was searching for information about Capt. White, as she is a descendent of Moses White. We put Ms. Seuffert in contact with the Wolpats and they find they are distantly related.

In Memoriam

Helen Draper, a former member and summer resident for over 40 years, passed away in February of 2005 at the Health Care Center in Pennsylvania. Helen had just turned 90 years of age. News of her passing did not reach the Society until this year and we send our condolences to her friend, Hildegard Wise. Both enjoyed their summers in their charming summer cabin on Crown Point Road.

Jean Swain, a former active member of the Society, passed away on March 16, 2006. Jean will always be remembered for her sharp wit and total involvement in the Historical Society. After Jean moved from Cuttingsville to Rutland, she still came to special events and meetings of the Society.

Tom Mitchell, a member of the Society, passed away on April 20, 2006, after a long, brave battle with illness. He was beloved by all who knew him and of his commitment to our town's talented musical group, the Saltash Serenaders.

Ellen B. Russell, a life member of the Society, passed away on Nov. 5, 2006. Ellen was 93 years old.

Adelheid "Heidi" Mitchell, one of the Society's founding members, passed away on Nov. 16, 2006 at 98 years of age. Heidi was a talented musician and wrote, directed and performed in plays for the Historical Society. She was also instrumental in the acquisition of the church building in Cuttingsville for use as the Historical Society's museum. Heidi performed Debussy's Clair de Lune magnificently on the piano at a concert given in June, 1992 at the Town Hall in celebration of Shrewsbury's last event held in honor of Vermont's Bicentennial.



Cuttingsville church lawn party, ca. 1930's.

Calendar Notes for 2006

January

The SHS applied to the Town of Shrewsbury requesting \$2000 for help in maintaining and operating the museum. Request was approved in March.

February

Updated information with Vt. Historical Society pertaining to "Passport to Vermont History" booklets which are given to museum visitors.

On Feb. 3rd, interviewed Ed and Irene Cook of Cuttingsville for our collection of videotapes.

March

Robert and Rita Beardmore and Christina Clarke, new life members.

April

Annual Meeting and election of officers was held April 19th.

SHS information now on Shrewsbury's web site.

May

Bill and Kathy Clancy, new life members.

On Sat., May 27th, the Fund Raising Committee held a successful Plant and Bake Sale on the lawn of the museum. The SVFD tent was much appreciated as well as all the home-baked goodies, cash donations and garden treasures from members and friends.

June

History Expo 2006 was held in Tunbridge, June 24-25. Fran Patten and Richard Bettelli presented an exhibit entitled "Til the Cows Come Home", featuring the Smith/Sharrow dairy farm in Shrewsbury.

July

The museum opened for the season on Sunday, July 2nd, from 1 to 3 p.m., through the month of Oct.

Met with Bill and Joyce Wopat of Wisconsin, descendants of Shrewsbury's first settler, Capt. Lemuel White. Visited grave site in Shrewsbury Center.

SHS attended meetings planning town-wide celebration for Liz and Jim Jeffords, on his retirement.

August

SHS prepared a photo exhibit on the Jeffords which were shown in the Town Hall on August 20th at the town-wide celebration for the Jeffords. A video and DVD was taken of the proceedings.

September

The fund raising committee prepared a special 2007 calendar featuring vintage photographs of Shrewsbury from the SHS archives. They sold out.

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October

On Sat., October 14th, the Fund Raising Committee held a successful Fall Food Fest, inside the museum where it was warm and dry.

On Oct. 22nd, the SHS videotaped the library's program on the 20th anniversary of the moose/cow love story. Larry Carrara showed the children and adults present the very antlers that belonged to the moose. The SHS provided the scrapbook of clippings and the video that was made in 1986-87 was shown to the audience.

On Oct. 24th, Barry and Barbara Griffith presented a program on the Crown Point Road, before the meeting. This presentation was videotaped and is part of our collection.

The museum officially closed for the season.

Gifts to SHS, 2006

Donald Oresman, N.Y., N.Y.: Booklet "Limericks, Both Dressed and Undressed."

Joyce and Bill Wopat, Ontario, WI: Book, "Historical Markers on Crown Point Road, A Driver's Guide."

Edna Martyn, Cuttingsville: Booklet written by Herbert S. Martyn, MD, 1941, "A Tribute to John C. Stewart, 1869-1941."

Grace Brigham, Cuttingsville: Special poster made with schoolchildren in honor of Sen. Jim Jeffords' birthday party at the Paramount, Rutland, 2006.

Marga Skelly, Shrewsbury: CD "Goat Songs" composed by Marga Skelly.

Michael Wells, Cuttingsville: DVD of town-wide celebration to honor Sen. Jim Jeffords and wife, Liz.



School Meeting at Northam school, ca 1910.

Anecdotes from Early Minutes

Going through the handwritten notes taken at one of the Historical Society's first meetings, several were found to be very interesting. For instance:

Lloyd Stapleton told about road machines, pulled by six horses, hitched in three pairs. One day, some of the men working on the road made a bet with the man driving the six horses that he could not take the road machine and the six horses inside the Brown covered bridge. The driver said he could and he did and he won the bet.

He also spoke about a murder that happened in the Brown bridge. Two men got to fighting over a load of logs. A man named Lawrence was killed.

And in 1917 a man named Ernest Douglas went to town and bought a gallon of liquor. He returned from town and started up the old Russellville road to the Gibson place. It was winter and there was lots of snow. Mr. Douglas tried to follow the road but the snow was too deep and he lay down under a pine tree and drank his liquor and froze to death. When he was found, his body had melted right down through all the snow.

Edgar Ridlon said he used to drive one of those six horse teams with a road machine. One day he was

trying to turn the team. The first pair of horses turned to the right and the second pair turned to the left. Ed jumped right in the middle and tried to straighten out the mess. In the process he lost most of his clothes.

Sadie Hamilton said she did not know all the details, but said there had been a murder up in Patch Hollow. Two men were interested in the same woman. One man decided to get rid of his rival, but he killed the wrong man.



Above, haying on the Edwin Pierce Farm, ca. 1915. W.E. Pierce on top, Fred Macabee standing at right. Jack and Dennis were "an excellent pair of work horses".

SHREWSBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 2007 Annual Dues 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.

2007 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.

The Historical Society prepared a wall of photos in tribute to the Jeffords. The Saltash Serenaders were ready to play, and the yellow-aproned ladies of the food committee filled the glasses for the champagne toast.

A Shrewsbury Volunteer Fire Dept. truck brought the Jeffords to the party, and once inside, the Jeffords were greeted by many friends and neighbors. A short ceremony followed with a presentation of a plaque by the Conservation Committee to be placed by a tree planted in the Jeffords' honor between the Northam Church and the Town Clerk's office.

Jonathan Gibson said: "When you think of Jim Jeffords, I'm sure that you think, as I do, of a man who has followed his convictions, a man of optimism, of cheerful humor, modest and unassuming - - nice qualities to have in your United States Senator, or in your next door neighbor. And it's his good fortune - - and ours - - to have in his partner, Liz, a person whose vitality and strong opinions are matched by her delight in and dedication to helping other people."

After Eldred French led the champagne toast, the party continued with food , cutting of the cake, music



Jim and Liz "cutting a rug" to the Serenaders.

and a circle dance.

The SHS videotaped the ceremony and comments and memories from friends, while member Michael Wells filmed a DVD showing preparations from the day before to the party's highlights.

A special day for two very special people.

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