

Sheldon Historical Society

Annual Newsletter

Vol 3

Fall 2017

Sheldon Historical Society Year In Review

Our group entered 2017 rather sedately with members spread around from Florida to Vermont. In the spring action began quickly and continued throughout the year with activities, publications, meetings, and work on the Bridge Street Property. Our first publication in the Free Press covered the "History of Sheldon Springs" on Jan 29. The executive committee decided upon a theme for the year of "Spring Into Action" which they honored by planning for the year. On May 26 we sponsored a dinner at the Abbey with entertainment and a raffle that attracted over 150 attendees. The Franklin County Quilters Guild donated a quilt for a successful raffle



Sally Severy graciously hosted an "Afternoon Tea Party" on June 21 that was well attended.

The 40th Army Band entertained a large crowd at the Abbey Pavilion on August 13 and the Society organized a "Yard Sale" at the same location on September 15 and 16. Thanks to the hard work of Fern Mercure and her volunteers this fund raising event produced great results.. In July we again appeared in the Free Press with an article on the "History of Bridges in Sheldon"

In honor of long term Sheldon Municipal Librarian Yvette Severance we published a booklet entitled "The History of The Sheldon Library" and presented it to her upon her retirement.

Your Executive Board members including Fern, Sally, Don and Harold attended several regional meetings of interest to the Historical Society to stay aware of events, funding opportunities, and innovative ideas that keep your organization abreast of the latest tools available to further enhance the Society.



The Building Advisory Committee met several times over the winter to plan the building restoration. Andy Crane supplied leadership in securing a building "Structural Engineers Report" including funding to help pay for the cost. Additionally he has spearheaded efforts to secure estimates for work to be completed and additional funding opportunities.

Building Advisory Committee News:



Work on the future home of the Sheldon Historical Society got rolling in earnest this summer. The bright and shiny new face of the former Harness Shop is a testimony to the transformative power of paint...and over 380 hours of dedicated, enthusiastic volunteer effort.

Planning for the project has been aided by the Preservation Trust of Vermont, which has awarded us three separate Robert Sincerbeaux grants: these supported a structural review by JK Structural Design PC, a conditions assessment by

architect Tom Keefe, and a seminar by funding consultant C P Graham. This preliminary work has identified priorities for an efficient and effective rehabilitation.

The studies also prepared the groundwork for financial support from public and private funding sources. A first priority was to remove the collapsing attached shed, which interfered with further repairs. The priority now is to repair damage to the foundation. A decision on grant funding for this project is pending: work is anticipated to begin in the spring. An underground gas tank must be removed before foundation work gets underway: the Northwest Regional

Planning Commission is arranging the assessment and removal of this remnant from the 1940's.

Removal of degraded siding on the front of the building revealed an appealing, original storefront design of rectangular panels and raised trim. It also revealed damage to the building's sill, which was repaired. The "new" look inspired the team to rehabilitate the entire façade, which- with three coats of paint- stands as an emblem of our shared commitment.

Interior work continues this winter, with the addition of stout beams to carry the future loads



of a rehabilitated second floor. The pressed tin ceiling will be removed and replaced during this work allowing the best opportunity to upgrade the building's wiring and acoustic insulation. Phase I of the rehabilitation project will result in an accessible, stable, and secure public space. Phase II generally focuses on repairing and refinishing interior details: the hardwood floors, wainscoting, wall treatment, and the unusual 4-over-1 double hung windows.

A great deal of cosmetic fine-tuning is required before the building is ready to receive and display the Historical Society's collections. Society members and volunteers are welcome to join in this rewarding project: your participation will make the Sheldon Historical Society a lively and exciting place to gather and share your stories!

Building Rehabilitation Project - Phase 1

	In Progress	Complete
Structural review by Engineers		X
Clean out building Green Up/ Clean Up Day		X
Repair sill on front of building		X
Select primer and paint colors		X
Paint panels, trim, clapboards		X
Replace panels on building front		X
Replace clapboards on façade		X
Level and straighten internal floors	X	
Remove collapsing shed		X
Remove exterior stairs	X	
Custom build front doors	X	
Grounds keeping	X	
Foundation and site work	X	
Remove underground tank/ Brownfield cleanup	X	
Remove homosote on first floor	X	
Inspect and rewire building	X	
Remove and replace tin ceiling first floor	X	
Add acoustic insulation to first floor ceiling	X	
Remove existing ductwork	X	



Raising Funds for the Sheldon Museum

The Sheldon Historical is preparing to organize a fund-raising campaign beginning next Spring. We have applied for grants, but will need cash to complete our renovations for our building on Bridge Street. We want to tell the story of Sheldon using exhibits and by completing the renovation of our Museum.

We have a goal of \$100,000. The Board of Directors has already supported the Sheldon Historical Society with a \$24,650 combined donation from its members. We will accept cash or in-kind as part of one's contribution. "In-kind" means material and/or labor for use at the Bridge Street Building. We will accept pledges covering multiple years. To begin the fund-raising process, we will seek funds from a selective group of individuals and businesses followed with a public campaign.

Our goal is to have plaques placed in the Town Clerk's office, Sheldon Museum on Bridge Street and on the Historical Society web site recognizing those individuals and businesses who have made a leadership and major donation. We also want to recognize families who have joined together to make a major donation in the name of the family.

We will be looking to kick off the leadership and major donation "ask" in April and finish in June. During the summer of 2018, we will have a community wide campaign. We will have a printed brochure that will give everyone more details.

One of the ways, one can become a "major" donor is to have several members of the same family, join forces and make a major donation in the name of the family. Remember, we will accept pledges that can be paid over several years.

Anyone ready to contribute? We are ready to visit you. Contact either co-chair:

Roger Bennett rbennett@bennettwealthmanagement.com or

Don McFeeters donandanita@cfl.rr.com

If you would like to visit about donating or have questions, please feel free to contact them.

Year In Review (Continued from Page 1) As a result we held the "Green Up / Clean Up" event at the site on May 6 with many volunteers in attendance. Thanks to the outstanding effort of Bryan Derry, Harold Smith and others we completed the renovation of the north side of the building with new siding, paint, and trim.

We completed a massive cleanup of the main floor of the building and the surrounding grounds. Many individuals contributed massive hours of volunteer time to paint, clean, and install the siding and the trim. The building took on an entirely new appearance. Additional work completed appears in Fern's delineation of those details. As we approach our fall season additional work presents itself and all volunteers are welcome. Just contact any Society member.

The Sheldon Historical Society continues to be a vibrant and progressive community organization with over 100 members. If you enjoy the companionship of enthusiastic neighbors and like to feel a sense of accomplishment in achieving goals to improve Sheldon then join us at any time.

Member Comment

"I am a member of a few Boards of Directors, but being part of the Sheldon Historical Society is one of my favorites. Not only do we discuss and decide the direction we are going to take, but we also get to get our hands dirty and are able to see the immediate difference we make. The building project, while being an ambitious goal, is certainly something we will transmit to the future generations. I encourage everyone to become a member and join the fun." Michel Consejo

Become a member now – Complete and mail form below

We invite you to become a member of the Sheldon Historical Society for only \$5 per year, \$20 for 5 years or \$100 for a lifetime membership. If your membership needs renewing please consider rejoining us. Every member is important to us! Members of the Sheldon Historical Society receive minutes of monthly meetings and notices of upcoming events. Volunteers enjoy working together on a variety of projects including museum rehab and fundraisers. There will be many exciting opportunities in the coming year to assist with exhibit design and program development. Members learn about Sheldon history from special guests, researched material published in the Burlington Free Press, on our Facebook page and website and from each other.

Sheldon Historical Society			
Thank You for supporting our work!			
FY 2018			Date: _____
Memberships per Person:	1Year \$5 _____	5 Years \$20 _____	Lifetime \$100 _____
Donations:	\$25 _____	\$50 _____	\$100 _____
	\$500 _____	Other _____	
Please fill out the information above and below and mail along with your check to: Sheldon Historical Society, C/O Pam Callan, 67 Shawville Road, Sheldon, VT 05483 If you have any additional questions please contact Sally Severy, (802) 782-5459			
Name: _____			
Address: _____			
Best Phone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____			
I am interested in helping out with any of the tasks below:			
_____ Building Renovations	_____ Fundraising	_____ Grant Writing	_____ Research
_____ Typing	_____ Director	_____ News Writing	_____ Celebrations
_____ Other Activities _____			
_____ I am unable to participate, but I wholeheartedly support the Society's efforts and programs			

Contribute to the Sheldon Historical Society at NO COST!

...through the **TD Bank's Affinity Program**

Our participation code is: **AH241**

Become part of TD Bank's Affinity Program and by doing so, contribute to the Sheldon Historical Society! TD Bank will donate its own money to the Sheldon Historical Society based on a percentage of the average balance of all linked TD Bank Affinity Program accounts. Just stop by a TD Bank and open an account (i.e. checking, savings, money market certificates of deposit and retirement accounts qualify) and request your account(s) balances be part of the TD Affinity Banking Program for the Sheldon Historical Society. Existing TD Bank customers also need to stop by your TD Bank to have your TD accounts added to the Affinity Program.

The TD Bank Affinity Membership Program is designed to help support non-profit organizations at no cost to its members or supporters.

Here's How It Works

TD Bank will make an annual donation to our organization based upon the average annual balance of all linked accounts. Eligible accounts include business and personal, Checking, Savings, Money Market, CD, and Retirement!

What We Receive:

Checking Accounts: \$50 for every new checking account, \$10 for every existing checking account
Savings Accounts or CDs: 1/10 of 1% contribution based upon our participants annual average balances

All You Have To Do: Ask your TD banking agent to link your accounts to the Sheldon Historical Society through its Affinity Banking program, it's that simple!

Again please note – Sheldon Historical Society will not receive any information from TD Bank regarding your account balances or any other personal information. This program is run solely through TD Bank and is an exciting opportunity we hope you take part in to help us support our society and historical museum.



Meet our newest member – Bonnie Boomhower

"We have lived in Sheldon for the past 13 years. Our two children both attend Sheldon Elementary school. Jack is 13 years old and in 8th grade, and Maleah is 4 years old and in preschool. My husband Mike and I own and operate Integrity Auto, LLC right here in Sheldon. I am also a per Diem registered nurse for Franklin County Home Health Agency. After looking for a new location for our business, we moved into the old Bruce King location. I must say we are very happy and excited to stay local and serve our home town community. Our family recently purchased a house in Sheldon that was built in 1906. That is when I became very interested in the town's history. This is one of the reasons I joined the historical society. I am very excited for our new historical museum and look forward to being a part of it."

Sheldon Historical Society

Officers	Board Members	
President:	Fern Mercure	Roger Bennett
Vice President:	Don McFeeters	Marie Brouillette
Correspondent:	Harold Smith	Tom Callan
Treasurer:	Andrew Crane	Michel Consejo
Contact information		Bryan Derry
Membership Secretary: Pam Callan		Lori Derry
933-6221		Sally Severy
Correspondent: Harold Smith 933-4566		

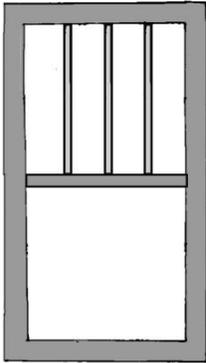
On the Web: email: sheldonhistorical@gmail.com website www.sheldonhistorical.org
Like us on Facebook: Sheldon Historical Society

Sheldon Historical Museum

Quiz

- 1. T or F Following the fire in 1932, the original rubble stone foundation was extended several feet higher to match the raised grade resulting from reconstruction of the nearby bridge.
- 2. T or F An old cast iron sign post exists at the southeast corner of the building.
- 3. T or F At one time the Sheldon Creek post office was located on the lower level accessible by concrete stairs running down to the west wall.
- 4. T or F The only access to the second floor is via exterior stairs.
- 5. T or F A new foundation needs to be constructed on the east side of the building where the stairs are located.
- 6. T or F There is a small cornice on the façade of the building above the first floor windows.
- 7. T or F The sash behind the boarded up windows are broken with parts missing and in much need of repair or replacement.
- 8. T or F Sheetrock and wainscoting cover the walls on the first floor. A tin ceiling consisting of 3 patterns covers the ceiling.
- 9. T or F The exterior stairs will be rebuilt preserving the original character of the building while regaining access to the upper level.
- 10. T or F 100% of the society's directors have pledged donations to the capital campaign.

Adopt –A-Window



All 9 of the four- over- one double hung windows in the museum are in need of extensive repair. To defray the cost of restoration we've decided to replace them while at the same time duplicating the look of the original design. Your historical society is inviting you to Adopt-a-Window. Plaques or other signage will be placed in the museum denoting those who adopt windows.

Contribution amount: Full window \$450 Half window \$225

Please make out your check to the Sheldon Historical Society and mail to Andrew Crane, SHS treasurer, 206 Pleasant St., Sheldon, VT 05483.

The Sheldon Historical Society is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization. All gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Quiz Answers

- 1 True
- 2 False The signpost stands at the northeast corner adjacent to Bridge Street.
- 3 False The post office was located on the first floor and the town clerk's office was located on the lower level.
- 4 True
- 5 True The stone and concrete foundation has suffered some displacement and deterioration due to soil pressure and improper drainage. The foundation work will coincide with the fuel tank removal and brownfield cleanup.
- 6 True The 16 inch projection extends the full width of the building.
- 7 True
- 8 False Currently homosote and wainscoting cover the walls. The plan is to replace the homosote with sheetrock and restore the wainscoting and chair rail where possible. The pressed tin ceiling will be removed and replaced.
- 9 True
- 10 True The combined donation from the board exceeds \$24,000.

Sheldon Creek Post Office & Apartment

Researched April 1997 by Marie Brouillette



S.B. Sheldon built the building in 1855. It was originally schoolhouse #5, the second school in Sheldon. (I have researched why number 5 and not number 2 but cannot find any answers.) Robert Crowe was born in 1892 and he attended this school. There are no records telling when it ceased as a school. In 1913 the building was sold to Week Graves and resold in 1920 to L.J. Rice, he was Nettie Keith's father. Nettie Keith owned it from 1946 -1954. In 1954 she sold it to H.P.Hoods. They owned it until 1958.

From 1958-1977 it was owned by Clarence and Helen Mercure. They moved the Sheldon Post Office from the Harlow Mower Store which they owned for a few years and sold to Arthur Murray. In 1958, the post office was moved to this building. The Mercures remodeled the house to have an apartment and the Post Office.

The Post Office has the early 20th Century oak trim. The office is put together with screws and each piece is matched to a number which is carved in the oak. The iron post office boxes which have Franklin Keyless Lockboxes with brass combinations are still being used. The cards with the original combinations are dated 1929. The service window is the original of the early 1900's.

The first record of a post office in Sheldon was in 1803. Since that time there has been 23 Postmasters and the present is Leo Bergeron. In 1977 the building was purchased by Richard and Marie Brouillette who are the present owners.

When L.J. Bryce owned the building in 1920 there was a harness shop in the basement. By 1927 the shop was no longer there.

From 1935-1944 William Pryme (Richard Pryme's father) rented the house for \$10 a month. There are three parcels of land with this property. There was a three story building about 20' by 20' that housed a horse stall, car, and hayloft and in the bottom was a chicken coop.

According to history or tales, the back porch was built without permission from the owner of the property. Later this was settled. This was an open porch that the Mercures closed in. They divided the house to be a Post Office and an apartment. After purchasing the property the Brouillettes doubled the size of the post office and remodeled the apartment.

According to records there were 5 post offices in Sheldon: East Sheldon (home of George Stebbins Jr.), North Sheldon (home of Mrs. Wesley Longe), Sheldon Junction (Home of Gertrude McEnany, Sheldon Springs and Sheldon Creek.

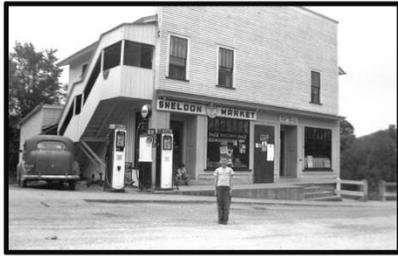
Printed with permission from Marie Brouillette. Postmaster from 1977-2002



Post Office Square prior to the fire of 1932.



Keith Goodrich's great grandfather was the harness maker in the shop between the post office and Mower's store.



Clarence & Helen Mercure's Sheldon Market

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5
5

Home
of the
future
Sheldon
Historical
Museum

2
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1
7



Sheldon Historical Society
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