

new to our collection...

Dr. Scoville's Dental Tools

Dr. John Scoville was a prominent surgeon and physician in New Marlborough, Ashley Falls and Cornwall in the mid-19th century. He was born in 1803 in Cornwall, CT. As a young man he studied medicine with Dr. Samuel Gold at the Cornwall Academy, then went onto medical school at Pittsfield Medical College and then Brown University in Providence RI, where he graduated in 1826 at the age of 23. For one year he practiced in Torrington, CT, then for eleven years practiced in New Marlborough, MA. From 1830 to 1845 he practiced in his hometown of Cornwall, though he saw patients in a wide swath of the surrounding countryside. These dental tools come to us from the Cornwall Historical Society. Physicians in those days were jack-of-all trades, so it was not unusual for a doctor to practice dentistry.



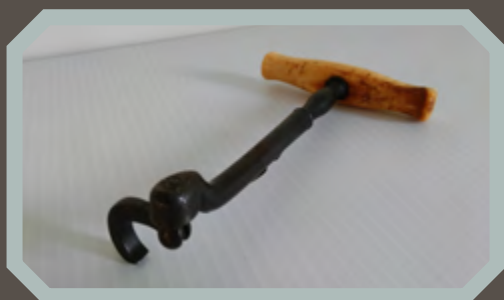
In 1845, after being in medicine for twenty years, he was worn out and wanted to go into another profession. Retiring from medicine, he moved to Ashley Falls and tried his hand at the dry goods business with Archibald Taft. In 1849 he established the first post office in Ashley Falls, building it on his property on the northern side of East Main St. He served as postmaster for ten years, was justice of the peace for seven, was a selectman, and even represented Ashley Falls in the state legislature for one year in 1860. But, being so near to his former patients, especially those in New Marlborough, he was regularly called upon for medical emergencies and run-of-the-mill ailments. Soon he had no choice but to give up the dry goods business and return to medicine full time. His business ventures had to be more of a passive nature, for example leasing land he owned near the train depot upon which the Ashley Falls quarry opened in 1876. It was a very productive marble quarry that produced an excellent quality of white and clouded marble for monuments and buildings. Dr. Scoville continued to be the quintessential country doctor well into his old age, passing away at the age of 85 in 1888. He is buried in the Ashley Falls Cemetery.

Read more about 19th century dentistry on next page

A Brief History of Dentistry

**Warning!
Not for the
squeamish!**

Dentistry is one of the oldest professions, dating back to 7,000 BC. Dental tool artifacts, such as the bow drill, have been found that were used by the Indus Valley Civilization and ancient Egyptians. Extracting teeth to relieve pain was a technique used from Classical times in ancient Greece throughout the Middle Ages. Curiously, during the early modern era in Europe and America, it was barbers—not doctors—who performed most dentistry.

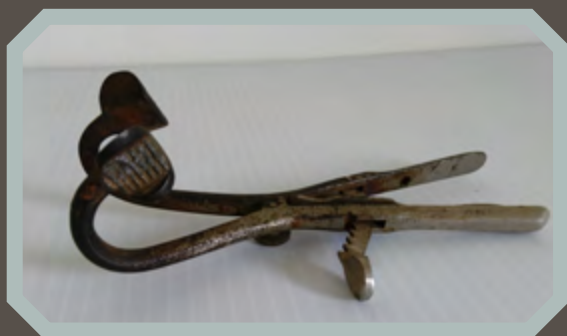


TOOTH KEY

Ivory handled tooth key used to extract teeth. It locks in three different positions to fit various tooth sizes. Dental keys, invented in the 1740's, get their name because they are modeled after door keys. The claw at the end of the shaft was designed to grasp the diseased tooth as the instrument was rotated to loosen the tooth — a crude method that often resulted in broken teeth, tissue damage and jaw fractures. By the turn of the 20th century, forceps had rendered dental keys obsolete.

In the 1800's, dentistry began to be practiced by physicians. There was no dental college in America when Dr. Scoville was studying medicine. The first dental college in the world was the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery founded in 1840. America led the way in dentistry advancements during the 19th century. American dentist Horace Wells discovered that nitrous oxide gas, "laughing gas," could be used as an anesthetic when extracting teeth. In 1846 Boston dentist William Thomas Green pioneered the use of ether, another anesthetic. These two men are considered the inventors of anesthesia—which was crucial in not only the advancement of dental procedures, but medical ones as well.

Although dental schools were being opened, throughout much of the 19th century dentistry remained a profession that one obtained by apprenticing with an established dentist. Licensure for dental practitioners did not come about until 1868, when states such as New York, Ohio and Kentucky introduced laws regulating who could practice. The residents of northwest Connecticut and the Berkshires were fortunate to have a surgeon like Dr. Scoville who performed dental procedures.



MOUTH GAG

This tool held a jaw open so that the dentist could reach all of the teeth in a patient's mouth. The adjustable and locking model, as this is, was invented in 1861. This tool was especially useful in extractions, where pain kept the patient from keeping their mouth open wide.



EXTRACTOR FORCEPS

Forceps like this one did not change much since they were invented in the 1500's. They are still a common dental tool used today.

Message from the President

Greetings Friends, Countrymen and More Friends,

It's time for another newsletter and a message from your FLB (Fat Little Buddy), the Prez. Once again more tidings of joy as to our doings and accomplishments not presented in any particular order. Hoping you all had a wonderful holiday season and are enjoying the new year. Spring will come in due time.

I will start with the Old Stone Store, the hub of our universe and site of our monthly think tank. As I have mentioned before, we have wonderful selling venue and "exhibit" hall. The store was extra loaded with goodies for the holidays where Santa even had success in restocking. We also had a wonderful Women's Suffrage display spearheaded by our talented and dedicated administrator, Jen Owens. At the present time we are showing EXPO projects from Mt. Everett. Many of you have had the pleasure of helping your child through this yearly event that puts the fear of God into many. It runs through March 5th, weekends 11-4.



It truly is the volunteers at the Old Stone Store who make it all possible. Every week a volunteer schedule is emailed, and sometimes issues arise as to who can open or close or a change of staff. It takes no more than a few emails to get many responses of "I can do it." The same happens at board meetings. A request for help only needs to be made ONCE. That's what makes this society so great! If any of you reading this would like a little more involvement with us just contact me and we will "elevate" you to a higher calling. AND, don't forget our Mark Dewey Research center and the volunteers that go the extra mile every week to help so many students, families and researchers. We have Ellis Waldman as a new intern and we are blessed to have him with us. Jackson Karpicz's internship with us has ended and his last act of kindness was to provide us with an emergency plan that will be implemented in all of our buildings.

We have a nice schedule of programs coming and check out www.sheffieldhistory.org for details. Our January program by Carole Owens was played to a packed house where many people learned new information, including your president. Highlights from her book on notable women from the 18th century were riveting. Diane Taraz's February program was another crowd-pleaser. If you missed her musical program, check out the link in this newsletter to hear her performing 19th century folk songs.

Last July Rene Wood and Lois Levinsohn headed a silent auction that netted over \$10,000 to be earmarked for the renovation of the Dan Raymond House kitchen. We are just getting the ball rolling on this project. We have several other smaller projects going on also and that is why we are always on the lookout for help of any kind, physical or financial. In closing I won't mention the money/fund raising thing, but remember the best nation after the Good Ole USA is DONATION. If you feel guilty over anything just send some dough our way as it will make us feel good too.

Sincerely, Your Most Humble Servant, Tony Carlotto.

Any ideas or comments: tcolonial@aol.com or 951-888-6658 ANYTIME!

Programs

Songs of the Factory Maids

In the early 1800s, the invention of the power loom disrupted the way fabric had always been made, and who had made it. On February 10 Diane Taraz, performed the songs of Factory Maids, 19th century factory workers who manufactured fabric to be used in clothing and other household goods. Diane told of the revolutionary changes mill work brought to the lives of women and men alike, as women seized new opportunities for better pay and independence, flocking to the mills to “weave by steam.” She performed in period dress and played parlor guitar and lap dulcimer. The songs included “The Hand-Weaver and the Factory Maid”, “Doffin’ Mistress”, “The Factory Girl’s Come-All-Ye”, “Bread and Roses”, and “Raisin Pie”.



Diane at Dewey Hall

Diane loves the intersection of history and music, and enjoys sharing the fascinating stories of both extraordinary characters and common folk of the past. She performs throughout New England both solo and with various groups, including Vox Lucens, a 12-voice Renaissance choir, and the Gloucester Hornpipe & Clog Society, a band that plays maritime, Celtic, and Colonial music. At the February program, she not only play traditional songs, but even an original composition based on the story of her own mill worker ancestors.

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*Click Here to
Watch Diane's
Music Videos*

Vietnam Veterans Panel

April 7 @ Dewey Hall

Sheffield Historical Society & the Mt. Everett
Regional High School Culinary Arts Students

Easter Bake Sale

pies, cakes, breads,
pastries, cookies,
gourmet Easter baskets



Friday, April 14
Saturday, April 15
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Old Stone Store
137 Main St.

Proceeds from the sale go towards a
scholarship for a Mount Everett senior

For more information: www.sheffieldhistory.org,
sheffieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com, (413) 229-2694

Sheffield Historical Society

Beekeeping in the Berkshires

A presentation by

Jan Johnson

Of Berkshire Wildflower Honey

Friday, March 10
7:30 pm

at
Dewey Hall
91 Main St.

Free and open to the public

www.sheffieldhistory.org sheffieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com 413-229-2694

Exhibits

Berkshire Military Museum Exhibit

March 18 to
April 23

The Sheffield Historical Society is honored to have guest curator, Thomas Williams, create an exhibit on the history of the men and women who served in the armed forces from the Berkshires. The exhibit runs at the Old Stone Store from March 18 to April 23, weekends 11 am to 4 pm. Thomas, who is a ninth grade student at the Berkshire Waldorf High School, will be creating the exhibit from pieces from The Berkshire Military Museum, which he founded in 2015. He and his fellow volunteers transformed the basement of his home in Ashley Falls into a full-fledged museum. The museum will soon be closing because Thomas and his family are moving to Australia. Thomas hopes to create a new museum, perhaps with a focus on Australian military history.



Berkshire Military Museum
Curator Thomas Williams

The military artifacts in the Berkshire Military Museum range from the Civil War to the Vietnam War, and represent 8 countries. Thomas's collection began with family items. His grandfather served in WW II in the British Royal Marines, and Thomas has medals, papers and gear from other family members. It took him

about a year to collect the other military artifacts in his museum, from tag sales, online stores and items that were given to the museum. The website for the museum can be found by clicking on the link on the next page. There you can see photos of the museum, including a gallery showing



Items from the Civil War & 19th century

how the basement was transformed into a museum. You can also read newsletters written by Thomas. Make sure to stop by the Old Stone Store to see the exhibit!



Korean War & Vietnam war items

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

Current Displays at the Berkshire Military Museum

Display 1: WWI and earlier conflicts. Includes artifacts from USA, France, Germany, Switzerland, and Australia.

Display 2: Berkshire County veteran's history. Includes artifacts used by Berkshire County Veterans

Display 3: Nazi Germany table. Includes artifacts from WWII Germany. (This table can be covered for the duration of the tour at request)

Display 4: WWII. Includes artifacts from USA, Imperial Japan, Sweden, USSR, and Australia

Display 5: Korean War and Vietnam War. Includes artifacts from USA, Australia, and Switzerland.

Display 6: Post WWII. Includes artifacts from USA.



World War I Items



World War II Items



[Click here to visit the Berkshire Military Museum website](#)

Berkshire Baseball

We are collaborating again with Baseball Hall of Fame to bring the story of Sheffield & Berkshire Baseball in an exhibit and program at Dewey Hall this Spring. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Do you have any photos, mem-

**May 13 to July 4
Program May 12**



orabilia, uniforms, bats, balls, gloves from local teams that you would like to be part of the exhibit? High school, little league, minor league? We'd also love to hear your stories of watching or playing the sport. All info or items are sought.

Email: sheffieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com
or call 413-229-2694.

virtual museum

The National Baseball Hall of fame in Cooperstown, NY has an online collection that a treasure trove for the baseball fan. Click the box to the right to see it.



Count the Cost

YOU CANNOT double the electorate without *increasing the cost of government.*

YOU CANNOT increase the cost of government without *increasing taxation.*

YOU CANNOT increase taxation without *raising the cost of living.*

Count the Cost, then Vote **NO**
on Woman Suffrage, Nov. 2, 1915

WOMEN'S ANTI-SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION OF MASSACHUSETTS
687 Boylston Street, Boston.
Mrs. JOHN BALCH, President
Mrs. CHARLES P. STRONG, Secretary

NELLIE MARTIN'S ANTI SUFFRAGE PAPERS

After seeing the winter exhibit, "Voting for the Right to Vote: Women's Suffrage Movement in Massachusetts 1840-1920", historical society member Barbara Martin was reminded that she had anti-suffrage materials belonging to her great aunt Nellie Martin. Nellie was born in 1880, and witnessed firsthand the suffrage movement here in Massachusetts. These papers were produced by the Women's Anti-Suffrage Association of Massachusetts, the first group in the nation, being formed in the 1880's, in which women advocated for denying their fellow women the right to vote. The Massachusetts

group was the largest and most influential anti-suffrage group, working to expand their organization and agenda to states throughout the country.

The anti-suffrage movement is a forgotten part of the history of suffrage. Why would women ever want to work against expanding their own rights? Women's suffrage, the Anti's argued, was the first step in a slippery slope leading to widespread divorce, neglect of children, debauchery and the unraveling of society itself. By opposing a woman's right to vote, they were preserving the order of society and gender roles: women naturally should be in the realm of the home and men in the public realm. It was even argued that voting was a burden. Massachusetts anti-suffrage leaders were the wives of wealthy and powerful men, and historians posit that these women feared losing political influence, gotten through their husbands.

Nellie, who had a home on Boardman St., was 35 when she obtained these flyers in 1915, the year of the state referendum on

expanding universal suffrage to women. The Anti's vehemently worked against the passage of the referendum—and they succeeded! From what Barbara knows of her great aunt, she thinks that Nellie probably was on the side of the suffragists, and kept these flyers with a sense of curiosity about why some women would want to work against their self-interest. "She was such an independent person." Barbara says. "She graduated from nursing school in 1906 and lived in Washington DC, Philadelphia, and New York City. She was a nurse in WWI, supported her family in many ways, and traveled widely. With all of this standing up for herself, I picture her as being for the vote."

THE BALANCE OF POWER

IN MASSACHUSETTS There are 57,000 more women of voting age than men of voting age.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE in Massachusetts would place it in the power of women to control every election and **TAKE POSSESSION OF THE GOVERNMENT.**

WITH THE BALLOT The women of Massachusetts could always hold the balance of power against the men.

WITH THE BALLOT Women voters would have a majority of 10,000 over men in the City of Boston. In Cambridge, Newton, Somerville, Fall River, Lowell, Brockton, Everett, Fitchburg, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lynn, Malden, New Bedford, Salem, Waltham, Taunton, Springfield, and many towns they would have majorities large enough to carry every election.

VOTE "NO" On Woman Suffrage in November and protect Massachusetts from the menace of a government which would lack the physical power to enforce its decrees.

WOMEN'S ANTI-SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION OF MASSACHUSETTS
687 Boylston Street, Boston.
Mrs. JOHN BALCH, President
Mrs. CHARLES P. STRONG, Secretary

Dr. ANNA HOWARD SHAW

President of the National Suffrage
Association Says :

**"The Anti-Suffragists
Are the Home, Heaven
and Mother Party."**

IF YOU LIKE HOME, HEAVEN
AND MOTHER, AND ARE GOING
OUR WAY, JOIN US!

IF YOU ARE GOING THE OTHER
WAY, JOIN THE SUFFRAGISTS.

Issued by Women's Anti-Suffrage Association of Massachusetts
Mrs. Anna H. Shaw, President
Mrs. H. D. Strong, Secretary

*The
Sheffield
Historical Society*



Dan Raymond House

Jennifer Owens, Administrator
sheffieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com
413-229-2694

Office Hours

Tuesday 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Friday 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Sheffield Historical Society

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Visit us on Facebook

Mark Dewey Research Center

K.C. Clow, James Miller, & David Prouty, Volunteers
mdrc@sheffieldhistory.org

413-229-3682

Office Hours

Monday 1:30 pm-4:00 pm

Friday 1:30pm-4:00 pm

or by appointment

Old Stone Store

On the Green in Sheffield

Weekends 11:00 am-4:00 pm

413-229-2287

The Sheffield Historical Society invites the support of you and your friends through membership.

Name(s) _____ E-Mail _____

Address _____

Please check: New Renew

Individual (\$15 - \$50) Family(\$51 - \$100) Patron (\$101 - \$500) Sponsor (\$501 - \$1,000)

Please make checks payable to: The Sheffield Historical Society. Send to : P.O. Box 747, Sheffield , MA 01257