

Our Smokehouse

If you have attended one of our summer events, you have gotten to know the deep, smoky flavors of food prepared in our smokehouse. The small brick building, standing nine feet tall, was built around 1838 by Edward Ensign Fellows. One of the more prolific builders in the town (he built the Old Stone Store & Town Hall among others), Fellows constructed this smokehouse using bricks from his own factory. It originally stood on the property that is now the Christ Church rectory and was moved to the Sheffield Historical Society grounds in 2000. Upon his marriage to Jane Dewey in 1838, Fellows purchased the property which had once been the home of his relative, Revolutionary War hero General Jonathan Fellows. He likely built this unusual double-chambered smokehouse shortly after purchasing the property. The smokehouse probably had a personal and commercial use, it's size suggests that he made provisions there to be sold in his market, the Old Stone Store.

Why smoke food? The drying process plus the chemical structure of the smoke residue preserves food for long periods of time, sometimes for years. In a traditional, single chambered smokehouse, the food would hang from the rafters and a slow-burning, low-heat fire would be built on the floor. Smoke rose and was vented through the shingles of the roof. Smokehouses do not have chimneys or flues, though this one has a 3 inch cutout in the top right side wall to let smoke escape. Our double chambered smokehouse

is quite rare, and employs the same design as an offset barrel smoker (invented in the 1980s, over two centuries after ours was being used). The fire would be made in the left chamber, and the smoke would drift into the right chamber through holes in the separating wall. Meats would be smoked for up to a week, and the resulting product could provide food throughout the winter months.

In fall of 2000, Christ Church donated the smokehouse to the Historical Society, due in no small part to the efforts of Catherine Miller and Dennis Picard. Although the building only had to be moved essentially across the road, the move was a complicated and delicate endeavor. An entire side wall was crumbling, so extra care was made to lift the 6,000 lb. structure in order to place a brace at the base. Once stabilized, Bill Devries oversaw and facilitated the lifting of the smokehouse by forklift onto a flatbed truck. The short journey across Rt. 7 began, with the truck gingerly backing into the driveway between the Dan Raymond House and the Mark Dewey Research Center. Carefully, it was lowered onto a concrete base next to the Dan Raymond House. The crumbled side wall was reconstructed with the original bricks, and minor repairs were made to make sure the structure stood up to weather and aging. The move and reconstruction was made possible by funds raised from our members, nearly \$7,000.



Paul O'Brien & Vito Valentini
working on beams



Heritage Festival & Family Feast 2018



Vito laying shingles

And the rest, as they say, was history. Many a historical society event since then has had guests greeted with the delectable smell of food being smoked in our smokehouse. Our esteemed president and expert on all things barbecue, Tony Carlotto, remarked that no modern smoker he's used imparts that same rich flavor that food prepared in the historical society smokehouse does. This past summer Paul O'Brien and Vito Valentini took on the task of replacing the roof. The composition and construction of a smokehouse roof plays a big part in its functioning, so Paul and Vito researched how to accurately reconstruct it, using cedar shingles, so that the smoke flowed as it was meant to. For the past two summers we have been celebrating the smokehouse at our Heritage Festival and Family Feast—an annual event that we hope you all can join us at next August. The smokehouse is also an important part of our Living History Day with the Undermountain Elementary students. Food preservation in the 18th & 19th centuries was an arduous and crucial task, something the smokehouse is the perfect backdrop for in our educational presentations. Stop by the Dan Raymond House to peek inside the smokehouse, which, delightfully, always smells of the very best barbecue you could ever taste.

MOVING THE SMOKEHOUSE IN 2000



Smokehouse at original location



Stabilized for transport



Forklift used to load onto truck



Careful, but short journey begins



Moving down Main Street



Arriving at the Dan Raymond House



Being lowered onto a concrete slab



Ready to be fired up



Jim Miller & John James enjoy smoked ham & sausage

[Click here to learn about smokehouses at the Colonial Williamsburg site](#)

Message from the President

Dear Friends,

That's right, WE are all friends, not members, Romans or Countrymen/women. I'll keep this short and sweet for a better chance of you reading it til the end. We have had many nice events, we need funding and we need YOU! Our continuing exhibits and programs are not to be missed as they will rival the finest in the land. Come check them out and bring a friend. Our grounds and buildings are more than meets the eye and explore them as well. The Heritage Feast was a great success and thank you all for coming. We are aiming at the first week in August for 2019 for our next one, so start thinking about it now. The recent living history day with the Mt. Everett 5th graders was another great success as well. The uniform exhibit was astounding! In closing, please remember every organization needs funding and women/man power and the competition for those are a force to be reckoned with. If you have not gifted this year, please consider this society. If you have any time or talents to contribute we will greet them with open arms. One minute, one hour, one day or one dish-WE WANT YOU! Until I figure a way to successfully cultivate the trees that money grows on, I am going to keep begging for dough. Thank you all for being our friend.



Most Sincerely, Your Most Humble, Obedient Servant AND FLB, Tony Carlotto, President.

PS: Feel free to contact me ANY time at tcolonial@aol.com

Festival of Holidays

Sheffield Historical Society
Festival of Holidays
 at the
Old Stone Store
Nov. 3 – Dec. 23
weekends 11– 4
 Opening Night Reception
 Friday, Nov. 2
 7-9pm
 Affordable gifts for
 all ages, featuring
 Berkshire artisans
 www.sheffieldhistory.org sheffieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com 413-229-2694

Are you looking for that special gift for everyone on your list? Do you want to shop local this holiday season? Then stop by the Old Stone Store for the 19th Annual “Festival of Holidays.” Once again the Old Stone Store has been transformed into a winter wonderland of unique gifts of all kinds, for all ages, all reasonably priced. The Festival of Holidays is a major fundraiser for the Historical Society, so when you shop at the Old Stone Store you are supporting the work that we do to offer free programs, exhibits and events to you, our friends and neighbors.

This season’s inventory is a veritable A to Z of gifts for everyone – from jewelry, to books, cutting boards, housewares, all sizes of lighted trees, gift items and soaps of all kinds. Games, gadgets, Solmate socks and colorful pot holders stock the shelves to the brim. The Old Stone Store has more ornaments than ever! Some of the new items this year include boxed sea salt caramels and locally-made Berkshire Bark chocolate bars.



In addition to elegant leather pocketbooks crafted right here in Sheffield, there is line of beautiful William Morris tapestry handbags and playful, free-trade leather purses. Matted antique maps of Berkshire towns are back on the shelves along with a wide variety of sophisticated, whimsical, and cuddly warm scarves. Don’t forget the gourmet sweet and savory homemade jams, salts, cookie kits, and nut and candy mixes prepared by dedicated volunteers. Buy one as a gift and one for the “elf” in yourself!



The Old Stone Store is open for the “Festival of Holidays” weekends 11am to 4pm from Nov. 3 until Dec. 23. The store will also be open from 11:00am to 4:00pm the day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve.

2018 SHEFFIELD PARK OF HONOR

Join us on Sunday, November 11 as we pay tribute to the soldiers who have selflessly served our country at the Sheffield Park of Honor. The ceremony runs from 8 am to 11am at Barnard Park (on Rt. 7 at Maple Ave.), and coffee, hot cider and treats will be served. As in years past, members of our community submitted to the organizers, Paul O'Brien and Al Romeo, the names of veterans and active-duty service members who they would like to honor. This year two monuments have been erected in the park on which those veterans' and service members' information is displayed. In addition to the recognition of the veterans, fifty flags flank the monuments.



Veteran's Day was once known as Armistice Day, commemorating the cessation of hostilities in World War I on November 11, 1918. This is the 100-year anniversary of that momentous day, and the Sheffield Historical Society is honored to be able to recognize all American soldiers who have protected this country in the hundred years since. We would like to thank Herrington's who donated the materials to build the monuments. If you cannot make it to the ceremony, the Park of Honor will be up through the month of November, so take a moment to stop and read the names of the soldiers honored there. For more information and to find out about some of the other veteran's projects that have taken place here in Sheffield visit berkshireheroes.org.

[click here to visit
berkshireheroes.org](http://berkshireheroes.org)

MONTHLY PROGRAMS 2019

JANUARY 11

What's It? Show & Tell

FEBRUARY 8

Restoring & Repairing
Antiques

MARCH 8

Limners: Itinerant
Painters of the 18th &
19th Centuries

Recent Programs

Sheffield Historical Society

Dairy Farming in Sheffield

Friday
September 7
7:30 pm
Dewey Hall

a presentation by
Holly Aragi



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Sheffield Historical Society

Bears in the Berkshires

a presentation by
Max Galdos-Shapiro
of Mass Audubon
Berkshire Sanctuaries

Friday
October 12
7:30 pm
Dewey Hall



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Recent Exhibits

Sheffield Historical Society

Cleaning House in the 19th Century

Exhibit on View
June 23–August 5

Weekends
11am–4pm
Old Stone Store

Free and open to the public



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Sheffield Historical Society

EVERYDAY HEROES

UNIFORMS OF DISTINCTION


Uniforms from the Military, Red Cross, Police, Fire Department, Nurses, Girl & Boy Scouts & More

Exhibit on View
Sept. 8–Oct. 21

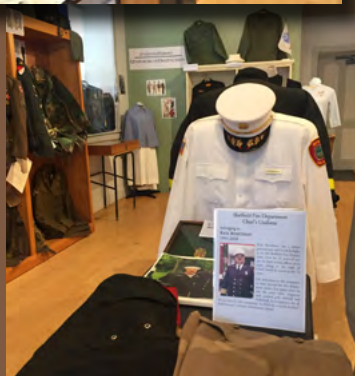
Weekends
11am–4pm
Old Stone Store

Reception
Sunday, Sept. 16
4–6pm

Free and open to the public



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From Our Collection...

Threaded Screw Candle Stand

Threaded screw candle stands are an American invention, originally designed by colonial New Englanders. They are comprised of a twin candle holders on a wooden bar which moves up or down on a threaded, central pole. The “splay” of the base prevents the stand from tipping over—a necessity when dealing with an open flame. Often the stand would also have a round table at the base of the threaded pole, which makes ours somewhat rare.

Its purpose was to allow the flame to be closer to the user as he or she worked at a task. Imagine sitting and reading a book or doing needle work by candlelight. The flame might start off at the correct height, but as the candle burned down, the flame would be too low to see by. With a simple rotation around the wooden screw the candle could be raised. It also could be lowered if one switched from a standing to sitting task.



The origins of this stand are unknown, but there is a good likelihood that it was made in a nearby Shaker community such as New Lebanon or Hancock. Early 19th century Shaker craftspeople were known for this design of candle stand. Indeed it is sometimes referred to as a Shaker candle stand.

*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

P.O. Box 747

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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