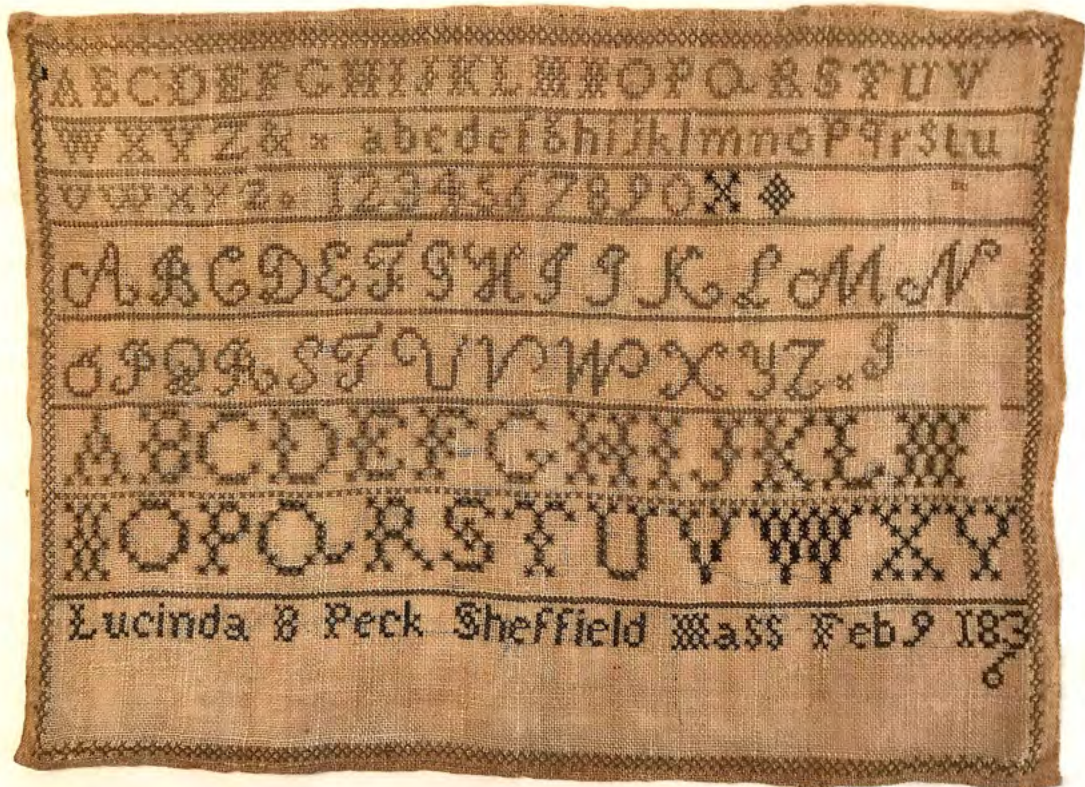


Three samplers in the Society's collection are made by girls, close in age, who lived in Sheffield in the 1800s. If Lucinda Peck, Louisa Rowe, and Frances Cowels were young friends, they may have shared an adolescent giggle at each other's sampler mistakes. Their cross-stitching skills are impeccable, save for Lucinda's dangling date of 1836 where the 6 didn't fit on the line, Louisa's 1833 sampler with backward *S*'s and Frances' circa 1832 error as she stitched "America is my nation Sheffield is my na," [sic] rather than "town". Her frustration is apparent, as she abandoned the last 5 inches of her sampler.



Prior to the 1700s, a sampler was a women's visual reference of examples of her needlework accomplishments; it depicted complex embroidered stitching techniques on narrow vertical bands of linen. When not needed, the band of samplers was rolled up and stored away for future reference. Over the years, it was used again and again as a memory aid, to illustrate new samples of stitches, designs, and the embroiderer's individual skill. The name sampler is derived from the Latin *exemplum*, meaning an example or model for imitation, and the French word *essamplaire*, meaning any kind of work to be imitated or copied.

In the 1700s and 1800s, a girl was expected to grow up, marry, bear children, and care for her family and home. Her education was different from that of a boy, as mere rudimentary comprehension of reading and arithmetic skills was generally acceptable. Her accomplishments were more focused on skills including music and painting as well as manners, obedience, and sewing.



Mothers taught their daughters sewing techniques while home-schooling them in the very basics of education. Most girls completed at least two samplers ~ the first, which might be undertaken when a girl was as young as five, was called a “marking sampler”. It served the dual purpose of teaching the child basic embroidery techniques, as well as the alphabet and numbers. The marking sampler was an education tool for girls from all social backgrounds.

A girl’s second sampler, the “band sampler,” was made in adolescence and was more decorative and pictorial, with verses emphasizing virtue, respect of family, and devotion to God, along with personal information such as place of birth and her age. Stitched on a linen cloth with threads of silk, the sampler was often framed and hung in the parlor to impress visitors and potential suitors of the girl’s homemaking skills. Samplers represent a form of art, a form of education, and a form of pastime. Because linens were valuable household items, they were frequently listed as part of a dowry and itemized in estate inventories.

KATHLEEN TETRO
age seven-O

GOT CHOCOLATE?

As a 20th century aside, the Whitman’s Confectioner’s Company was founded in Philadelphia in 1842, and the Whitman’s Sampler candy box became an iconic presence from the time of its debut in 1912. The cross-stitch was inspired by an old sampler that hung in the company president’s family home. Whitman’s iconic sampler candy box, with its double entendre of an assortment of chocolates and needlepoint skill, quickly became their signature design, and remains ubiquitous in the history of marketing sweets.



Message from the President

Greetings Dear Friends, Members and Fellow Historians,

I have the honor of adding my two cents to this fabulous newsletter. We are so fortunate to have our wonderful administrator Jen Owens put this together. I hope you enjoy reading it “cover to cover” as much as I do. I won’t beat the drum for money, but we all should remember by now what the best nation after United States of America is. Answer below.

Our accomplishments in the past are now history so I will point to the future. Besides our exhibits and programs we will once again do our feast in August and something new in June. The June 8th Matthew Noble Day will be totally FREE with food, fun, games and more! Board member Vito Valentini is spearheading this family community event, which will run from 11am to 3pm, with our annual members’ meeting at 3pm. Matthew Noble Day will be held on the Society grounds, to the rear of the Dan Raymond House.

This where my begging comes in. In order to do all the things we would like, people power is sorely needed. Grab a friend and team up to lend a hand. Not only will you have a good time, but you will make new friends and see our property up close and personal. This Society is a hidden gem right in the middle of town. I still discover new things. Let any member, Jen (sheffieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com) or myself know if you would like to help out.

Most Sincerely

Tony Carlotto

tcolonial@aol.com or to the horse’s mouth 951-888-6658 24/7

Answer: \$DONATION\$



Tony & Vito at the smokehouse. Keep an eye out for emails with details about Matthew Noble Day

At Matthew Noble Day, and throughout the summer, the Society will be raffling off a handcrafted canoe made by Hilary Russell of the Berkshire Boat Building School and -YOU- our members. If you would like to participate in the free boat-building workshop to be held on May 18-19 & 25-26 please email sheffieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com. You can attend all or a portion of the workshop here at the Dan Raymond House, or just stop by to see the process being done. Space is limited so please email us to reserve your spot.



Thank you to our 2018 MEMBERS

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UPCOMING
EVENTS

8th Annual Scholarship
GOLF
TOURNAMENT



Monday, June 17
Canaan County Club

Checkin at Welcome Table 2:30-3:30 pm

Nine hole scramble, best ball, four member teams

Tickets \$70: includes dinner, greens fees
& cart (dinner only tickets available)

Registration forms available at our website or at the Old Stone Store-
please let us know if you want to participate for planning reasons.

Proceeds go to a Scholarship for a Mt. Everett senior

MATTHEW NOBLE DAY

Saturday, June 8 11am-3pm

Society Grounds (159 Main St.)

Followed by Annual Members' Meeting at 3pm

A Day of Family Fun, Food and History!

Free and Open to the Public

Sheffield Historical Society

SHEFFIELD'S EARLIEST CHURCHES

a Talk by Representatives of the:

First Congregational Church



Christ Trinity Church



Our Lady of the Valley Church



Friday
May 10
7:30 pm
Dewey Hall

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Sheffield's earliest churches, Old Parish Church, Christ Trinity Church and Our Lady of the Valley Church have storied and centuries-long histories. On May 10, representatives from each church will be at Dewey hall to share that history.

The story of immigration to America is part of so many family histories. This talk, by Carol Ascher, looks at the Russian Jewish immigrants to Sharon, CT, who settled there thanks to support from Belgian philanthropist Baron Maurice de Hirsch. The talk will be accompanied by a powerpoint presentation. After the program Carol will be signing copies of the book upon which the program is based.

Sheffield Historical Society

A Chance for Land and Fresh Air:

Russian Jewish Immigrants in Sharon & Amenia



a talk by
Carol Ascher

Friday
April 12
7:30 pm

Dewey Hall
91 Main St., Sheffield

Free and open to the public

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

UPCOMING EXHIBITS

The exhibit debuts information on Sheffield's notorious Tory, Dan Raymond, and the sixteen subsequent owners of the property. A sampling of artifacts from the two parlors and keeping room are on view to entice visitors to partake in a self-guided tour of the house museum this summer. The Dan Raymond House museum will re-open on Fridays from 10:00-3:00 during the months of June-October.

Sheffield Historical Society

DAN RAYMOND FROM RICHES TO RAGS

AN EXHIBIT ON THE NOTORIOUS SHEFFIELD TORY AND THE HOUSE HE BUILT



April 6
through
May 5

Weekends
11am - 4pm
Old Stone Store
139 Main St.

Free and open to the public

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

Sheffield Historical Society

SHEFFIELD'S CHURCHES

Exhibit on View
Weekends 11am-4pm

MAY 11 - JUNE 30
Old Stone Store

Free and open to
the public



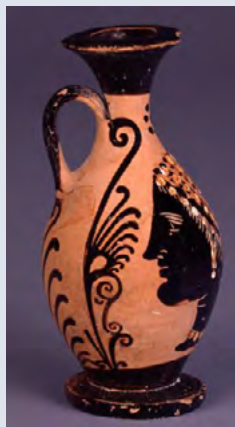
Explore the various houses of worship in Sheffield and Ashley Falls over the centuries at this exhibit.

From Our Collection...

Silhouette of a Gentleman

Hanging in the Dan Raymond House is this curious framed silhouette. The label on the back attributes it to English silhouette artist J. Gapp who made silhouettes of tourists on the Chain Pier in the English seaside resort town of Brighton between 1830-40. How this silhouette got to America is unknown. Was the subject an American on holiday? Was the small portrait purchased as a souvenir? Perhaps had it made its way from the UK destined for the antiques trade? Our records show that it was given to the Society in 1982 by Sally Scanlan, but no more than that.

The silhouette was a popular, quick and inexpensive way to have one's "likeness" drawn in the decades before the invention of photography. The "black figure" pottery of ancient Greece was the inspiration for the late 18th-early 19th century silhouette fad in Europe and America, as part of a general movement of "neoclassicism" in art.



The fad was popularized by Pliny's classical tale explaining the origin of Greek figure pottery: A Corinthian maiden named Dibutade traced the shadow of her love on a wall before he left for war.

Her father, the tale goes, transposed his daughter's sketch on an urn so that she could remember her beau while he was away. To have one's silhouette done, a sitter could evoke that romantic tale, embrace a very fashionable neoclassicism, get an image of themselves and all for just a few pennies.

As in Britain, in America the silhouette was accessible to nearly everyone. There are silhouettes of founding fathers, and there are silhouettes of slaves. Just like the traveling portraitists called "limners," the silhouette artist would go from town to town to ply his trade, often to fairs, resorts or other festivities. A skilled artist could cut the image freehand without sketching it first, others would rely on setups where the sitter's shadow would be cast against a wall so the profile could be traced. The finished piece could be quite small, meant to fit in a locket, somewhat larger to be placed in scrapbooks, or could be framed and hung in one's home. They could be of a head, bust, or whole profile. A true "likeness" rendered the image immediately recognizable as the sitter. Ultimately, like portrait paintings, the silhouette was replaced by photography when it was invented in the 1840's.



This silhouette is on display in our exhibit, "Dan Raymond, From Riches to Rags," at the old Stone Store from April-May. The exhibit showcases objects in the Dan Raymond House, which will be open Fridays from 10-3, from June-October for self-guided tours.

[Click here to learn more about the fascinating history of Silhouettes](#)

*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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Mark Dewey Research Center

K.C. Clow, James Miller, & David Prouty, Volunteers
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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 _____

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