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*Our volunteers are vital. Our membership is indispensable.*

*Our community support is priceless.*

*Without You... We'd be History.*

*With You, We Thrive and Keep History Alive!*

## EVENTS CALENDAR

"Become a part of Living History!"

### EXHIBIT:

#### *"Memories of the General Store"*

Celebrate over 100 years of the mercantile, presented jointly at Northrop House, (Sat-Sun, 1-3), The Old Store (Fri-Sun-12-4) and Sherman IGA (during reg. hours).

**Runs through October.**

### *Annual Membership Drive - 2024*

Your membership renewal is enclosed with this newsletter. We appreciate your continued support.

### *Annual Members' Meeting*

**TBA** at Northrop House  
Guest Presentation  
All welcome.

### *Annual Holiday Open House*

**December 2nd & 3rd: 1-4pm**  
Northrop House Museum,  
Society Barn & The Old Store

**The Old Store  
closes for the season December 31**

### *Annual Barn Sale*

Memorial Day weekend 2025

**2025 will be our 50th year!**

Celebrate with us!!

## DEAR SOCIETY MEMBERS, AND OUR SHERMAN NEIGHBORS,

As we reflect on the past year, thank you for your unwavering support, which has enabled us to continue our mission of preserving Sherman's history.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Ada Howe Kent Foundation, we've made significant restoration progress at the Northrop House, including re-plastering and painting several rooms and restoring the wood trim and plaster ceilings.

We're excited to resume our community programming and invite you to explore Sherman's mercantile history in a special three-part exhibit. At Northrop House, the display shows the many "lives" of the general store as well as other mercantiles in Sherman. The Old Store Museum features original artifacts from Lester Bennett's estate, offering a glimpse into Sherman's IGA store's past. Additionally, SHS has loaned historical items to the current IGA for display on the shelf over the meat counter.

We're thrilled to announce the reissue of James Lincoln Collier's *The Bohemians of Robber Rocks*, a perfect addition to our collection. This release complements our previous publication, *Reflections*, an anthology of personal stories about

the notable Sherman residents from the 1930s to the 1960s.

In 2025, the SHS will celebrate its 50th anniversary, followed by special programming in 2026 to commemorate our country's 250th anniversary.

We invite you to join us as a member, attend our events, or volunteer to help revive our past programs and launch new initiatives. As a unique, volunteer-run, donation-based nonprofit, we rely on your support. Our Old Store Gift Shop and annual Barn Sale are vital to sustaining our operations.

Enclosed is our membership drive envelope. Please return it with your selected membership category. Your support is crucial to keeping our mission alive.

On behalf of the Board, I extend heartfelt thanks to those who already support us and warmly invite our friends and neighbors to join us. This newsletter highlights our recent activities and accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Haney  
President

NORTHROP HOUSE MUSEUM • THE OLD STORE MUSEUM & GIFT SHOP • BARN • ROGER SHERMAN COBBLER SHOP

Sherman Historical Society, 10 Route 37 Center, Sherman, CT 06784

• [www.ShermanHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.ShermanHistoricalSociety.org) • email: Office @ShermanHistoricalSociety.org • Office: 860-354-3083 •

**SARAH BOLLACKE RECEIVES THE  
2024 GLORIA THORNE SCHOLARSHIP**

It was with immense pleasure that the Board of Directors awarded this year's scholarship to Sarah Bollacke, who not only met but exceeded our criteria in GPA, community service, dedication to the Society and overall character.

Sarah, a 2024 graduate of New Fairfield High School, achieved academic honors while pursuing her creative talents in theatre and music as well as volunteering for several causes close to her heart, SHS included. She also managed to work as a personal care assistant as well.

The Society is appreciative of Sarah's years of volunteering. She's jumped in to help at every turn: working barn sales and donation days, setting up exhibits, organizing our inventory of historic goods, cooking at the open hearth at Holiday Open House, and marching with our banner in the annual parades. Whatever asked, she has done with great enthusiasm, and often a song.



RECIPIENT (L-R) SARAH BOLLACKE WITH SHS PRESIDENT ELIZABETH M. HANEY.

Sarah received her certificate and \$5,000 check in an event on Aug. 8th, with her proud family in attendance. We wish Sarah every success in academia, her creative passions and beyond!

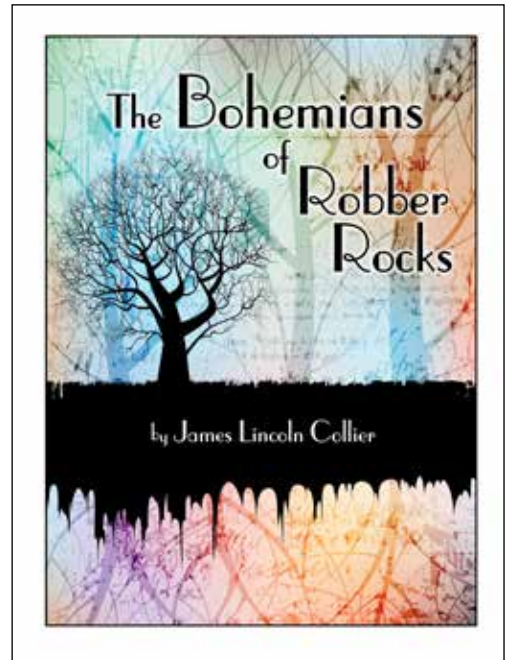
**Exhibit  
"Memories of the General Store"**

The Society has mounted a three-location exhibit to celebrate over 100 years of the General Store (and its many lives) in Sherman. The main display in Northrop House, which features a variety of stores once in the area, is open Sat. and Sun. 1-3. The Old Store houses all the items left to the Society from what was Lester Bennett's IGA as well as many vintage photos. The Old Store is open Fri. through Sun. 12-4. The third part is a display at the current IGA, on the shelf over the meat counter. Have a look next time you shop!



The Society was pleased to add to this exhibit, a section to mark Mike Luzi's 41st year owning the current IGA and his dedication to our town.

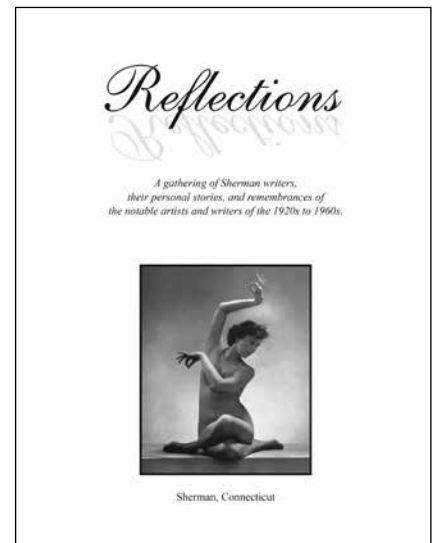
We encourage you to visit all the exhibits, which run through October.



**BOOK RE-RELEASED**

We are pleased to reprint Mr. Collier's earlier publication in which he provides an insightful look back at our local history, from colonial times to the colorful 1930s—when a menagerie of Bohemian writers, artists, and actors of note took up residence at the seventeenth century homestead, Robber Rocks, that lies on the Pawling/Sherman border.

It is a personal retelling that adds to our tales of local history published in *Reflections*. Both books are available at The Old Store, for \$25 and \$30, respectively.



## RINGING IN THE HOLIDAYS & 2024

Our annual Holiday Open House took place on December 2nd, 3rd, and 9th, 2023, featuring a special visit from Santa, who joined us for the community Christmas Tree and Menorah lighting. Our theme, “A Stroll Down Memory Lane,” offered a festive and nostalgic way to welcome the community and express our heartfelt thanks for your continued support of our volunteer organization. It was a wonderful way to usher in the holiday season, and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. We’re already planning this year’s theme and look forward to creating another memorable experience for you!



FIRST SELECTMAN DON LOWE WITH BOD ALUM, PHYLLIS MCGOLDRICK.



BARN SALE EARLY BIRDS!

## BARN SALE BRINGS HOME THE BENEFITS

Our Annual Fundraising Barn Sale was a tremendous success, and we extend our deepest thanks to everyone who made it possible. From the generous donations we received to the enthusiastic buyers who turned out in droves, your support was invaluable. We’re especially grateful to the dedicated volunteers who worked tirelessly for weeks to prepare, setting up and taking down the tent, organizing the sale, and ensuring everything ran smoothly. Thanks to effective publicity, the word got out—and you all made it a success. Even the weather was perfect!

One loyal customer in line confessed, “This is my favorite day of the year. Not my birthday, not Christmas, but your annual barn sale. No matter where I am, I’d take the red-eye back just to be here.” How can we not feel the love?



## SHS PRESENCE IN THE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



L TO R: BOARD MEMBER LUCY SEDA, HER DAUGHTER HELEN SEDA, TEACHER BERNADETTE LINERO, AND VOLUNTEERS CARA KAUFMAN, AND SARAH BOLLACKE ABLY REPRESENT THE SOCIETY IN THE PARADE.

## SECOND GRADE COMES TO CALL

Sherman School's second grade visited the Historical Society. They, with teacher, Dawn Perlman, toured the Old Store with Miss Sue [Moga] learning about shopping in times gone by in one tiny store in the center of town. They also toured the Northrop House Museum and Roger Sherman Learning Center with Mrs. Z [Zellner].



## COLONIAL VILLAGE COMES ALIVE!

The Fourth and Fifth grade XP students and their teachers, traveled back in time by reenacting the lives and trades of Colonial America. Represented were blacksmiths, chandlers, militia, and more; it was quite the event! The students researched their chosen trades and prepared presentations that demonstrated what life was like in the late 1700s. Educational and entertaining for all! Well done!

PHOTOS, COURTESY OF SARAH WIGGINS PHOTOGRAPHY.



## A YEAR of PROGRAMMING

We still have much to do to get back to our programs, including volunteers to help us run them. If you are interested, contact us.

This past year, SHS co-sponsored with the Sherman Library, John Cilio's informative talk on Taverns and their role in colonial life in New England, and highlighted those right here in Sherman. Did you know the library sits on the land once occupied by Fuller's Tavern? We hope to sponsor more of these talks.



BOARD MEMBER JAN DESIATO IS A HISTORY ENTHUSIAST & MULTI-PERIOD RE-ENACTOR.

In addition, SHS hosted Sherman School's 2nd Grade visit and the 4th & 5th Grade's Colonial Days event.

We look forward to hosting more educational events to inspire and enlighten our community in addition to our historic 50th anniversary planning, which just might prove to be—*Revolutionary!*

If you have an historic collection or are interested in presenting a history lecture or workshop, let us know.

## CURATOR'S CORNER

The Society gives thanks for these accessions:

**Thea B. Smith** for donating copies of her grandfather Philip Hillyer Smith's books plus news articles.

**Cindy Steele** for ephemera from Happy Acres Farm when her husband worked with Tony Hapanowich. Gift included: uniforms, mugs, two memory books, an old map and globes from the District #2 Schoolhouse they once called home.

These gifts add to the range of our library and archives.

## VOLUNTEER! VOLUNTEER!

The Society is *always* in need of volunteers for a variety of projects, including tours, office tech, social media, after-school workshops/programs and camps for children, plus archiving, exhibits, maintenance and gardening. Love to decorate? Perhaps you'd like to help prepare our Holiday Open House? Or muscle your way through our annual Barn Sale? Or perhaps you have some programming ideas that we can offer throughout the year? Volunteers are *HOW* we are able to operate and keep history alive!

We appreciate student volunteers and award our Gloria Thorne Scholarship to one dedicated youth each year. But any age welcome! If you have talents to share, contact us! [office@shermanhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:office@shermanhistoricalsociety.org) or 860-354-3083.



NEW BOARD MEMBERS: RENÉE COLLINS, LUCY SEDA, AND HELEN ANNE OSTROSKY

## SHS ADDS NEW BOARD MEMBERS

At our Annual Meeting in September, we elected three additional Board Members to our governing team: Renée Collins, Lucy Seda and Helen Anne Ostrosky. They each bring unique talents and energy to the table. (Please see page 8 for a full list of our Board.)

Renée Collins has called Sherman home for the past four decades. Currently, she is a dedicated volunteer at The Old Store. She raised two children here and has proudly served as a realtor helping families find their dream homes and invest in the beauty of this town.

Lucy Seda, her husband and two teens have taken delight in Sherman since their move in 2018. Lucy works in the healthcare field. She believes, however, her best work has taken place through volunteerism.

Helen Anne Ostrosky has lived in Sherman since 1999, and has raised four children here. She currently works as an Assistant Preschool Teacher at Christ Church Preschool in Pawling NY. Helen Anne began volunteering at SHS with Membership and Kids@Cobbler Shop programs. She teamed up to start the *Hooked on History* children's programs. She looks forward to collaborating with the current and past board members and volunteers!

## MAKE NEW MEMORIES AT THE OLD STORE MUSEUM & GIFT SHOP

If you have been shopping at The Old Store Museum & Gift Shop, you know it's more than a reminder of bygone days, it is not just a mere shop; it's a bastion of history, a gathering place and a testament to the town's resilient spirit. It's a place where neighbors become friends and strangers become familiar faces. In an era where digital interactions often take precedence, the old-fashioned charm of The Old Store reminds us of the value of human connections forged over a wooden countertop.

Your patronage, year after year, plays a vital role in keeping The Old Store Museum & Gift Shop operational, much like a lifeblood pumping through the veins of a cherished community landmark. The Old Store Museum is a living museum, where the walls whisper tales of past generations and the creaky floorboards groan with the weight of time. By choosing to shop with us, staffed 100% by volunteers, locals and visitors alike contribute to the maintenance of a tangible piece of the town's heritage. Each purchase made is a vote for the continuation of this legacy, allowing the store to remain a beacon of Sherman's storied past amidst the ever-evolving present.

The mission of The Old Store Gift Shop is to be self-sufficient, pay all of its expenses while maintaining the over 200 year-old building and provide for funds for the SHS endowment as well as programs for SHS as needed. Your purchases helped us replace a section of The Old Store's roof this year. Each transaction is a declaration of support for a way of life that values authenticity, relationships and the rich tapestry of our heritage.

Come see us, shop for the gift you need (we get new items every week) and we might have just the right gift. And we wrap for no charge. Remember, we "have a little of a lot," we change with the seasons and the holidays are fast approaching!!

The Old Store Museum & Gift Shop is located at 3 Route 37 Center in Sherman. Our hours are Friday through Sunday from 12 to 4. Beginning in November, when we morph into a Winter Wonderland, we will add Thursdays to the calendar!! Hope to see you soon!





## 2024 SHERMAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD

### *Officers*

Elizabeth M. Haney, President  
Allyson McFerren-Mard, Vice President  
Susan Lang, Treasurer  
Lori Finck, Secretary

### *Directors*

Lisa Cilio  
Renée Collins  
Jan Desiato  
Lisa Keller  
Helen Anne Ostrosky  
Lucy Seda  
Ginny Zellner

### *Honorary Directors*

Elizabeth S. Beatty  
John Jenner  
Phyllis McGoldrick  
Sue Moga  
Gloria A. Thorne

### *Curator*

Gloria A. Thorne

### *Museum & Gift Shop*

Lisa Cilio

## OUR MISSION

To bring together people interested in Sherman's history, to collect and preserve objects which help to establish or illustrate its history, to acquire and manage any property available to the Society, to interest young people in their town's heritage, to publish historical information, and to maintain a library of historical materials.



**KEEPING HISTORY ALIVE CAN BE EXHAUSTING!**  
ONE OF OUR COLONIAL VILLAGE RE-ENACTORS. (SEE PAGE 5.)  
PHOTO, COURTESY OF SARAH WIGGINS PHOTOGRAPHY.

The Sherman Historical Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit. We are a volunteer-based organization relying on income from our membership, donations, gift shop and events to generate our operating costs. We apply for grants but are not funded by any local, state or federal organizations.

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