

PROGRAM

200th ANNIVERSARY SHAYS' REBELLION

Gen. DANIEL SHAYS. Col. JOB SHATTUCK.



PELHAM MASSACHUSETTS

OCTOBER 11 - 13, 1986

Saturday, October 11, 1986

- | | | |
|------------|--|---------------------|
| 9:00 | Opening Ceremony
Flag raising and ringing of bell | — Town Hall |
| 9:00-4:00 | Special commemorative envelope
with Pelham date stamp | — Town Hall |
| | Historical exhibit on
Shays' Rebellion | — Town Hall |
| | Souvenir Booth | — Town Hall Lawn |
| | Bake Sale | |
| 10:00-3:00 | Historical Society Museum open | |
| 10:00-1:00 | Refreshments
Coffee, doughnuts, and light lunch | — Town Hall |
| 10:00-4:00 | Games for all ages
Presentation by Pelham School Children | — Rhodes Bldg. Lawn |
| 4:00-5:00 | Amherst Brass Band
Concert | — Town Hall Lawn |
| 5:30-7:30 | Chicken Barbecue
Advance reservations necessary | — Rhodes Complex |
| 7:30-9:30 | Contradance
Tickets at the door \$2.00 each | — Rhodes Complex |

On the cover is the only known contemporary portrait of Daniel Shays, a woodcut published in Bickerstaff's *Boston Almanack for 1787*, third edition. We thank the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., for permission to reproduce it.

Sunday, October 12, 1986

- 1:00-5:00 Historical exhibit on Shays' Rebellion — Town Hall
Commemorative envelopes — Town Hall
Historical Society Museum open
Refreshments
- 1:00-1:45 Film, A LITTLE REBELLION
NOW AND THEN — Rhodes Complex
- 1:00-5:00 Rutland Regulators
— 18th Cent. military
encampment and drill Town Hall Lawn
- 3:00-4:30 Special Program on Shays' Rebellion — Town Hall Lawn
Welcome by the Pelham Board
of Selectmen
Music — The Ballad of Daniel Shays
Singers led by Lois Sayers Smith
Remarks by invited guests
Introduction of descendants of
Daniel Shays
Selection of gold commemorative
coin raffle winner
Presentations by:
John L. Brooke, Tufts University
Robert J. Wilson, Historic Deerfield
Joseph J. Ellis, Mount Holyoke College
Robert A. Gross, Amherst College
Questions from the audience
- 4:30-5:15 Re-showing of film — Rhodes Complex

Monday, October 13, 1986

- 10:00-3:00 Exhibit and Museum open

SHAYS' REBELLION

In 1986, Pelham, Massachusetts, is celebrating the bicentennial of Shays' Rebellion. Daniel Shays, the leader of this important farmers' revolt in 1786-1787, lived in Pelham on the east side of the Swift River's west branch, an area which is now part of Quabbin Reservoir.

Many farmers from Western Massachusetts, like Shays, returned home from fighting in the Revolution to find taxes and financial burdens more oppressive than what they had experienced under English rule. As many of their neighbors were being tried in debtor courts, going to prison, and losing their farms, a widespread movement of resistance led to the closing of courts in towns like Northampton, Springfield, and Worcester, and finally an armed confrontation with state militia at the Springfield arsenal. Shays and his fellow rebels felt that they were again victims of arbitrary power wielded from afar, this time Boston instead of London, and that their rebellion was based on the same principles for which they had fought a decade earlier.

Agrarian discontent was by no means limited to Massachusetts; back country violence and court closings occurred in other states as well. But Shays' Rebellion, with its armed defiance of government forces was widely publicized, alarming many who feared for the survival of order. Leaders throughout the states felt a greater urgency as they convened in Philadelphia to write a new constitution. Shays' Rebellion was an important force shaping the Constitution of 1787 which gave more power to a central government.

Program sponsored by
Pelham Historical Commission

Ruth Gallagher
Margaret Hepler
Paul Bigelow

Barbara Jenkins
Emma Weaver
Lawrence Siddall

ALL EVENTS TO BE HELD RAIN OR SHINE
FOR COMFORT BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This 200th Anniversary Celebration of Shays' Rebellion would not have been possible without the contribution of either time or materials from the following. The Pelham Historical Commission wishes to thank everyone who assisted us. We apologize if we have inadvertently omitted your name or place of business.

- | | |
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