



Springfield Historical Society News
Dedicated to Preserving Springfield, NH's History Since 1984
April 2008

The President's Message:

The Springfield Historical Society meeting will be Thursday, April 10th at the Springfield Town Hall at 7:00pm. Ron Garceau will do the presentation, "Hosting Our Summer Guests" with slides of the summer hotels, inns and boarding houses of the past in the Springfield, New London, Sunapee area. Ron has an extensive collection of area pictures and publishes the Su Nipi Magazine. Everyone is welcome.

Another Sudden Death:

Springfield and the Springfield Historical Society were shocked and saddened by the death of Don Garlock on December 30th. He had served the town in several capacities since he and Barbara retired to Springfield. Don was a wonderful addition as vice president to the historical society. He signed on for one year in 2003-2004 and ended up serving for five! During that time he planned interesting programs four times a year. Don had a good sense of humor. He was always helpful and the perfect gentleman. Our thoughts go out to Barbara and his family. Don Garlock will be missed by many.

Picking Up the Pieces:

Julie Slack, our curator, has volunteered to be acting vice-president until election of officers for 2008-2009. . Thank you, Julie for stepping up to the plate again!

Volunteers Your Historical Society Needs YOU:

In the last two years, we are fortunate to have new volunteers who have helped with the scholarship committee, nominating committees, become officers, helped with the cemetery survey and audited our finances. They are all appreciated.

The historical society needs help with bringing the museum material into 21st century. Julie would love some help with entering data, filing forms, and scanning photographs. If you can help, please contact Julie at jorrokslack@gmail.com or 763-8909.

A volunteer is also needed to provide refreshments for the April meeting. If you can help, please contact Patsy Caswell, 401-847-6782 or caswellheath@msn.com.

Thank you:

Brandt Denniston has generously given the historical society a Dell desktop computer for use at the museum.

The Board decided to have individual plaques made to recognize the people listed on the memorial plaques. The plaques will be made by Charlie Pinkerton. Families and friends over the years have given money to the Memorial Fund in memory of their loved ones.

Trudy Heath has offered to design the Scholarship Awards Plaque and Charlie Pinkerton has offered to make it.

On the request of Brandt Denniston, treasurer, the Audit Committee of Don Hill, Laila Jonsson, and Leigh Callaway have audited the accounting practices and the Historical Society has adequate controls in place to assure proper accounting and reporting. A special thanks goes to Brandt who worked very hard this last year to bring the financial methods used by the society up to date and accountable.

Good News to Donors:

The IRS sent the historical society a letter dated January 19, 2008 stating that large donors who may have had trouble in 2005 may file an amended return for 2005 this year. The treasurer will send letters to the large donors of 2007 recognizing their contribution as not being a quid pro quo contribution where goods or services were received. As such the contribution should be fully deductible on the donor's federal tax return.

=====

**Remembering Five of the Greatest Generation from Springfield
Who Gave Their Lives for Their Country**

While looking through some material donated to the historical society this last year by Ella Carpenter Pickering and Eleanor Carpenter Farr, I found a program of the Memorial Sunday Service on May 26, 1946 held at the Springfield Methodist Church. The minister was Rev. Franklin Frye. The speaker for the memorial service was Senator Norris Cotton from Lebanon, NH. On this occasion, the hymns were "Faith of Our Fathers," and "My Country 'Tis of Thee" The scripture lesson was "God's Peace Plan," Eph.2:13-20. Veteran of World War I, Evan George, who had been in charge of the program, gave a few remarks. There was a moment of Memorial Silence for the five fallen brave from Springfield, who gave their lives in World War II.

J. Wayne Bailey, a graduate of Towle High School, served with the 15th Air Corps as T/Sgt., receiving the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He gave his life on August 27, 1944 in Italy.

Richard F. LaRue served in the Air Corps, was taken prisoner in Corregidor. He was listed as "missing in action" for several years until official notification came that he died in a prison camp in the Philippines on July 25, 1942. He was a graduate of Towle High School.

Myrle Leonard a 1939 Towle High School Graduate, and a Plymouth Teachers College graduate in 1941, was a Lieutenant Navy pilot, and was serving as squadron leader on the aircraft carrier, "Benjamin Franklin," when it was bombed off Japan on March 19, 1945. He was presumed to have lost his life at this time.

Reino Marttila served with the Hdq. Squadron, 23rd Airbase Group, at Grenier Field, Manchester, NH where he was accidentally killed on January 1942, the first of the five to die in the service.

Lyman J. Saunders served in the Air Corps. At Fort Myers he received his wings and was promoted to Sergeant. Lyman was stationed somewhere in France when he was reported missing in action. Later word came that he was killed in action February 16, 1945, near Werl, Germany.

After the service, most of the people present went up to Old Pleasant View Cemetery for a continuation of the program at the Soldiers' Monument which had been erected in 1910. Always the most moving part of the program, to me, was the playing of taps at the cemetery with the sadly

beautiful notes echoing back and forth around the hill considered the center of town and now the location of the cemeteries.

The scene awaiting the people late in the 1940s at Old Pleasant View Cemetery, still resembled the cemeteries designed in the late 1800s and May was a beautiful month at the cemetery. There were lilac bushes, (if we were lucky in bloom for Memorial Day) snowball bushes, bridal wreath, and “grave yard pinks” covering many of the graves. Down at the west end of the cemetery were beautiful patches of lilies of the valley. Later, the low bush blueberries would bloom. These ground covers actually protected the stones from trimming implements. The “Cedars of Lebanon” found in cemeteries of that period, were still in good form in the 1940s. The flags were placed by the graves of veterans of wars going back to the American Revolution, and flowers were placed on other graves as well. In my mind, the sun was always shining on Memorial Day.

For the size of little Springfield in the 1940s, the town has quite an Honor Roll of 28 men and 2 women. As well as the men who lost their lives, the following men and women served their country in World War II;

Theron, J. Beals, John Brown, Harold Brown, Jr, Elmer Butcher, Merle Butcher, Oscar W. Colby, Allen Donovan, John H. Donovan Jr., Evan George, Tyler Grace, Lloyd S. Heath, Richard Kidder, Hollis Larue, Samuel J. Howard, Glen Moody, Loren L. Patten, Willis L. Philbrick, Derwood Richardson, Edward Smith, Laura M. Smith, Frederick Temple, Clifford A. Waddell, Georgena Butcher Wheeler, Guy L. Wheeler, and Kenneth B. Wheeler. Georgena died January 31, 2008 as plans were being made for this article.

When the town schools were consolidated into one building on land donated by Wilson Wood in 1948, the new school was named Springfield Memorial School in honor of these men and women. The town officers have retained the name for the building. The next time you are at the Springfield Town Hall, take time to look at the photos of these men and women on the south wall of the hall. They served their country in World War II and are Springfield’s “Greatest Generation.”

Patsy Heath Caswell. References : Tom Brokaw, The Greatest Generation phrase, Memorial Sunday Service, May 26, 1946, Springfield, New Hampshire Bicentennial, 1769-1969. Patsy's memories of the time.

If you would like your Springfield Historical Society newsletters and information via email, please contact Brandt Denniston: brandt@wildblue.net.

DONATIONS:

Scholarship Fund _____
Memorial Donation in whose memory? _____ **Amount** _____

Mail to Treasurer, Springfield Historical Society, PO Box 6, Springfield, NH 03284.



Springfield Historical Society Yearly Scholarship

A View of Lake Krolelemook and the Hills Beyond

Tickets will be sold for the above 16x20in. oil painting by Patricia Heath Caswell for the Springfield Historical Society Scholarship Fund. The painting was inspired by a photo taken by Ed Belfield a few years ago from Hoyt Hill in back of the houses and Route 114 on the south side of the lake. The tickets are \$2.00 each and 6 for \$10.00. Tickets will also be sold and the drawing will take place at the Annual Meeting, July 2008. You need NOT be present to win. Please return the tickets in the enclosed envelope.

Criteria for the Springfield Historical Scholarship

1. Must be a Springfield resident.
2. Must have been accepted at an approved school for further education.
3. Must be a current student or past high school graduate. Graduates of the Keasarge Adult Diploma Program are also eligible.
4. Preference may be given to students whose family members belong to Springfield Historical Society.
5. A letter of application must be written. Applications are due by April 30th.
6. Applications may be obtained from and returned to the following:
Julie Slack, 355 Shad Hill Rd. Springfield, NH 03284; Trudy Heath., PO Box 297, Springfield, NH 03284, Donna Denniston, PO 367, Springfield, NH, 02384 or the Guidance Dept, Keasarge Regional High School.
7. Presentation will be made at Senior Night, Keasarge Regional High School.