



Springfield Historical Society News

Dedicated to Preserving Springfield, NH's History since 1984

July, 2007

The President's Message:

The annual meeting of the Springfield Historical Society will be July 19,th the THIRD Thursday, (Note the Change!) 7:00 pm, at the Springfield Meeting House. There will be a reception after the meeting at the museum. Fred Ogmundson and Don Hinman will do their presentation of "Fowlertown Then and Now." The two settlements co-existed for several years after settlement in the 1770s, but neither knew that the other existed until Sam Roby, Esq., and Capt. John Quimby from Protectworth (Springfield) took a compass and went exploring. Both settlements were surprised to find neighbors! But, let the speakers tell you the story. There will be open house at the museum after the meeting.

It was certainly a first when our April meeting was cancelled two weeks due to weather! We are never surprised in January, but this cancellation was a surprise. Thank you, Barbara Garlock for providing the refreshments. I am only sorry that I had to go back to Rhode Island. Thank you, Charles Kennedy for your "Short Course on Islam," and thank you Don Garlock for once again providing a great speaker.

Stuart Wade

The last of March, we were saddened to hear of the untimely death of Stuart Wade. From the time the Wade family arrived in Springfield, Stuart volunteered at the museum during the summer months. Stuart was in his first year of a three year term as treasurer for the Springfield Historical Society. Some of us were just getting to know him. He had a dry sense of humor and was interested in the town and its people. The society and town will miss Stuart and send our condolences to Julie and the family.

Other Losses:

The society has lost three active members this year. In October, Beverly Bacon, who looked for Springfield articles in the Valley News; Betty Broadley who helped with the research at Old Pleasant View Cemetery, and recently we learned of the loss of Carol Rollinson, who with her husband Richard, shared an interest in the Springfield Historical Society and gave very generously to our causes..

Scholarship news:

Thank you to the Scholarship Committee, Trudy Heath, Julie Slack, and Donna Denniston who are announcing the people chosen for the 2007 Scholarship. They were very impressed with the letters written by the ones who applied.

\$500.00 to Thatcher Jacques who has been out of high school one year.

Seniors at Kearsarge Regional High School are the following:

\$500.00, Mathew Raymond

\$1000.00, Elijah Burke

\$1000.00, Victoria LaBelle.

Thank you to all who were so generous with your contributions to the first Scholarship Fund offered by the Springfield Historical Society. Your response has been overwhelming. The fund is now firmly established for future use. We are very appreciative to Richard Rollinson. In memory of his wife, Carol who died in January, Richard donated \$10,000 to the Springfield Historical Society. Five thousand of that was designated for the Scholarship Fund.

The chances on the 16" x 20" oil painting of Croydon Mountain from Aaron's Ledge are still available. (\$1.00 each, 6 for \$5.00.) They can be purchased at the Annual Meeting in July, or through the mail if you still have the tickets. The drawing will be held at the end of the meeting.

Nominating Committee's choice of officers for 2007-2008

Thanks to the Nominating Committee composed of Janet Booker, Cynthia Hayes, and chaired by Don Garlock, we have a slate of officers to be voted upon at our Annual Meeting on July 19th.

President, Patsy Heath Caswell (1yr)

Vice-President, Don Garlock (1yr)

Secretary, Donna Denniston (1yr)

Treasurer, Brandt Denniston, 2007-2009 who will finish the remaining two year term of Stuart Wade.

Board of Directors:

Julie Slack, (1yr)

Bob Nulsen is serving a two year term, (2006-2008).

Janet Booker will be finishing Muriel Tinkham's three year term,(2006 -2009)

Muriel Tinkham who has been the heart and soul of the Springfield Historical Society, with her wealth of information, will remain involved in the society.

NOMINATIONS MAY BE MADE BY ANY MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY AT ANY TIME PRIOR TO THE ANNUAL MEETING WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE CANDIDATE.

Good News from the Museum Committee

As we go to press, the committee reports that some major repairs and improvements are now underway at the Springfield Historical Society Museum. Come to the reception after our annual meeting and see what has been done ! Thanks, Julie Slack, the curator and Peter Neilsen who presented the problems to the selectmen, They have been pleased with the results. The museum plans to be open Saturdays in July and August.

Summer Residents

Over the last few years, we have remembered the various individuals or families who were part of Springfield's Summer Colony over the years. Ed Belfield gave us interesting information about his aunt, Miss Coffin and Camp Innisfree on the south shore of Lake Kolelemook. There have been brief biographies of Paul Abelson, Dr. Varastad Kazanjian, and Adm. Ellis Zacharias. There were other families who settled here even earlier. Marilyn Dickie Wellborn Hopper and Peggy Downey Knowlton have shared some of their memories of their grandfathers with us.

Dr. William Gerry Morgan

Dr. William Gerry Morgan was probably the only one in the summer community to have been a descendant of early Springfield settlers. His great grandparents were Ephraim and Sally Stanley Morgan who arrived in Springfield prior to 1795 from Beverly, Massachusetts. They, and the Samuel Thorp family, also from Beverly, settled away from town on a high hill at the southeast end of Lake Kolelemook. The hill was named for the Thorps and the pond was named for the Morgans. The Thorps did not remain in town. Webster Pass, named many years later, passes over Thorp Hill.

Dr. William Gerry Morgan was born in Newport, NH in 1866. He graduated from Fryeburg Academy, Maine and Dartmouth in 1890 with a BS. In 1893, he graduated from the University of Pennsylvania as an MD. He was in private practice in Houston, Texas and South Port, Connecticut before he located permanently in Washington, DC in 1899. He became Dean Regent and Professor of Gastroenterology at Georgetown University School of Medicine. According to Dickie Hopper, granddaughter of Dr. Morgan, he had become gravely ill when a young man. It was Dr. Max Einhorn, a gastroenterologist, who saved his life. They became very good friends, and Dr. Morgan followed Dr. Einhorn into that field of medicine. Dr. Einhorn owned Tranquility Farm on Philbrick Hill, which passed through several owners. We today, know it as Faraway, the home of Bob and Alice Diggs Nulsen.

Dr. Einhorn told Dr. Morgan about property for sale on Philbrick Hill. Dr. Morgan and his bride, Cora (Boyd) Morgan, bought it sight unseen and the family spent many happy summers at Hideaway.

The Morgans had four children. Son Gary died when an infant. There were three daughters, Myra, Ruth, and Garry. All three daughters married naval officers. Myra's first husband was Five Star Adm. Felix Stump. Ruth was married to Adm. O.B. Hardison, and Garry married Three Star Adm. Charles Wellborn who graduated from the Naval Academy at age sixteen. Dr. Morgan loved to take his daughters fishing and on other summer adventures. Until the late 1950s, early 1960s, several generations of the Morgan family continued to spend summers at Hideaway after Dr. Morgan passed away in the early 20th Century.

Dr. Samuel Adams

Dr. Samuel Adams, a pediatrician in Washington, DC. was told about Springfield by Dr. Garry Morgan. Washington, DC. is famous for being our capitol, but infamous for its summer weather, especially in the years before air conditioning. Anyone who could, would leave the city. In the early 1900s. Dr. Adams and his wife, Lida, began summering with the family at what became Adamsfort. In 2007, the property is owned by the Rodgers family.

What a trip it was for Dr. and Mrs Adams and their four children. Dorothy, Dennette, Mildred, Lida, several maids, a cook, a coachman, and horses! Imagine a summer's worth of luggage in the era of trunks, long skirts, and no synthetic fabrics! Granddaughter, Peggy Downey Knowlton, thinks that the help, carriages, and horses must have come ahead of the family, maybe by train. Mrs. Adams came next with the two youngest daughters, Mildred and Lida. The rest of the family followed. While waiting for Adamsfort to be put in order, they stayed with Mrs. Ada Philbrick just down the hill on the right side of the Grantham Road on the bend in the road.

The original Adamsfort was the 100 year old farm house, a barn, laundry building, a small house for maids, and a one room house for the coachman. Later additions were added to the original house. All the additions were needed in future years when the four Adams children arrived with their families. Dorothy married to General William Borden and their three daughters, Dorothy (Pinkie), Ann Carlin (Sis), and Cynthia; Dr. Dennette with wife Tудie and daughters Jill and Elliott, Mildred (Easy) and Fairfax (Fax) Downey, son Davis, and Peggy; the Roberts, Lida (Lulie) and Bob with Patsy, Samuel, and Thomas. A nursery addition was added when the 4th generation, Peggy's eldest arrived.

The families would not all be there at once and the most constant were the Bordens and the Downeys, with Mildred Downey running the establishment. The Borden girls, Peggy and her brother, Davis were usually there together. When Davis died at age eleven, the girl cousins were like siblings to Peggy. Peggy tells of the Adamsfort quartet singing at the Town Fair.

Not mentioned by Peggy, but Dr. Adams was very kind and helpful to seriously ill children and their parents in Springfield.

Dr. Adams, George Sacks, and Mason Richardson built the boathouse on the north shore of Lake Kolelemook around 1904. The present owners are direct descendants of the Adams and Sacks families. The Nulsens bought the Richardson's share in 1962. Peggy mentioned that the Old Town canoes are still there are still as heavy as she remembered. Dr. Adams had very strict lake rules. No one could go out in a boat until he or she could swim to the raft, which seemed a mile away to small swimmers. And to take a canoe out, one had to be able to turn it over and right it and get back into it. Peggy wonders how she ever managed. This original group of summer residents also started the Overlook Country Club which was located on the hill in back of the Pattern milking barn and east of Idelwold, the Sacks's home.

In the late 1950s, life began to change for the families who had summered at Adamsfort. The Downeys decided to make their year around home on George Hill Road, named "Martini Well" by one of Peggy's little boys who could not say artesian well! Peggy feels lucky and privileged that for many years, she was able to spend every summer in West Springfield. Her four children share the memories of both Adamsfort and Martini Well. Peggy also reminisces about the Springfield people who were part of her early life, Raymond Beals, Bessie Heath, Estelle Duford, Maybelle Colby, Del Patten, Polly Bailey, Mrs. Philbrick, Seely, and many others.. Her parents, Easy and Fax happily lived out their lives in West Springfield. Her father enjoyed his tractor, but was never skilled at operating it. Dallas and Malcolm Pattern came to pull the tractor out of wherever it was stuck! Her mother had a series of favorite horses that she cared for and rode around the countryside every day. A highpoint for her was the Bicentennial Parade which she led on her mare. Peggy said that she will be forever grateful to the wonderful people who cared for her mother and made it possible for her to end her days in the home and town she loved so much.

As Peggy and husband Bill moved around the world for many years and saw some spectacular views of many countries, she never saw a more beautiful view than Croydon Mt. from the porch at Adamsfort, for her, the hills of home.

Springfield Historical Society Membership, July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008

July 1, 2007 is the beginning of the 23rd year of the Springfield Historical Society. We are growing in membership and have new faces actively participating by working to improve the museum, serving on committees, and being available for office holding. Please send your DUES promptly. The deadline is December 30th. The form and an envelope will be included in the newsletter. We appreciate all of you and would hope that you will continue your membership.

SPRINGFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP DUES

Type of Membership	Dues 2007-2008	Past Dues
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Individual \$15.00_____	_____	_____
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Family, 2 or more @25.00_____	_____	_____
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Lifetime per person \$125.00_____	_____	_____
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Business, Your Discretion _____	_____	_____
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Name:_____	Winter Address if Different
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Address:_____	_____
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City/Town:_____	_____
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State/Zip_____	_____
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Telephone:_____	_____
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Mail to Brandt Denniston, Treasurer, SHS PO Box 6, Springfield, NH 03284.

Thank you!

GREAT PRESENTS!

A COLLECTION OF Springfield Stories, \$15.00_____

A PICTURAL HISTORY OF SPRINGFIELD, \$15.00_____

BOTH FOR \$25.00_____

Mail to the above address. Thank you!