

Springfield Historical Society presents

Abram Lisner & Springfield, NH: Stories of the man who built Woodcrest in 1902 and made a *world* of difference in Washington, DC

On Thursday evening, October 11th at 7 pm, the Springfield Historical Society will present a truly fascinating program with Ms Judy Granger as guest speaker. The program will be held at the Town Meetinghouse , 23 Four Corners Rd in Springfield and is free and open to the public.

Judy (Cheney) Granger grew up in Woodcrest, that amazing estate on the knoll of Lake Kolelemook in Springfield. She is a retired educator, school administrator and teacher educator. She is currently researching the lives of immigrant Abram Lisner and his wife Laura, the couple from Washington, DC, who found that lovely piece of land on Kolelemook in Springfield in 1901-2, and built Inyanota, what many of us know as Woodcrest. (And yes, they did envision and build themselves a peaceful haven in Springfield. It had beautiful gardens, and many outdoor ways to relax—from a boat house to a bowling alley and billiards and recreation hall, a stable for Abram's feisty black stallion, a golf course, a tennis court AND, Judy's favorites, two huge walk-in stone fireplaces, and a lovely, really magnificent, personal library.

Join Judy as she shares her discoveries and stories about the Lisners. Learn about this quiet couple, who immigrated to this country seeking safety and freedom. They were youngsters who grew up after the Civil War. They created --from scratch- one of the most famous businesses in Washington DC, and interacted with presidents and world leaders who are legends to us. Through their hard work, the Lisners became multi-millionaires, and throughout their lives, shared their talents and gave their money away to better the lives of others.

Imagine being Abram and likely witnessing Lincoln's cortege as it made its way through New York City, and then having the privilege to serve on the Lincoln Memorial Committee. Imagine being Laura and fund raising with two generations of Roosevelts and Mrs Edgar Allen Poe. Or both of them believing enough in the arts to create an auditorium that would decades later welcome Jackie Kennedy to the opera and Betty White to perform-- just this past April, 2012.

The nuggets of their stories have been invisible to us and to many Washingtonians. Yet the Lisners' commitment to all people, through their work in education, the arts, health care, child labor and even elder and orphan care may just amaze you. Hear snippets of stories that allow us to imagine what it was like to know and work with several presidents, and leaders who created such institutions as the National Geographic Society and the Red Cross. Imagine being part of history, whether by serving as a George Washington University trustee and advocating for women or making sure that our nation's capitol had it's first free public library and symphony.

It was a time when our nation's capitol was young, still muddy and messy, and trying to grow. The Lisners, a quiet couple, came to Springfield to relax on Lisner Knoll. And they enjoyed it with their friends in the boat house across the way, —and with “many of the locals from West Springfield”.

Judy looks forward to sharing these stories with you and hopes locals will think back to stories they heard from their grandparents and elderly neighbors about the Lisners, Inyanota/Woodcrest and Overlake, the neighborhood's summer country club, open to all.

The meetinghouse is handicapped accessible. Refreshments will be served following the program. Call Donna Denniston at 496-5462 for directions or further information.