



2002

SPRINGFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
POST OFFICE BOX 6
SPRINGFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

President's Message

The Springfield Historical Society will meet downstairs at the Libbie Cass Memorial Library at 7 p.m. on Thursday, January 10, 2002. The program will feature Springfield residents Bill Sullivan and Bob Nulsen leading a wide-ranging discussion on military operations in Afghanistan and hostile activities between Palestinians and Israelis. Their observations and discussion will be based on their experience in those countries and with special units of the US Army. Bill Sullivan's assignments included 2 ½ years in Vietnam, 2 years in Pakistan, 2 years in Nepal and 3 years in Israel. Bob's military experience includes 4 years with special forces and one year with ranger units in Vietnam. Bob was an instructor in special forces operations at the special forces school in Fort Bragg, NC. We invite you to join us for this unique opportunity to share in a very informative and lively discussion of such deep concern to us all as we enter the new year.

THANK YOU'S

We in the historical society were saddened to hear of the death of Verna Philbrick Cote. Verna descended from several of the oldest families in town. She might have been living in Florida, but her heart was with us in Springfield. Verna was a great source of information about people, places and events in town. This information has been used in programs about the older roads and homes and stories about the country store. Verna will be sorely missed by all of us. She was a keen observer of life. We always gave thanks for Verna.

Thank you, Russell Stacey! The bearskin recently given to the Springfield Historical Society by Russell Stacey, previously owned by brother Ross, and shot by their sister, Marion Crowningshield, could be found on occasion in strange places. One such place was Old Pleasant View Cemetery.

One Halloween in the 1940's Florence Melendy, town nurse and Mrs. Crowningshield, who often had open house at the Crowningshield home on Four Corners Road, planned a treasure hunt that led from West Springfield village up to Old Pleasant View Cemetery, down by Lake Kroleemook, and eventually to the Crowningshields. Most of the youth of the town participated. Waiting for us at the Old Pleasant View Cemetery were Maybelle Colby and Bessie Heath who were to jump up from behind the stonewall and give us a scare. Ross, knowing of the plan, put the bearskin on and was waiting to scare Maybelle and Bessie! They claimed afterwards that they knew it wasn't "the real thing." It certainly added to the evening and was a Halloween to remember.

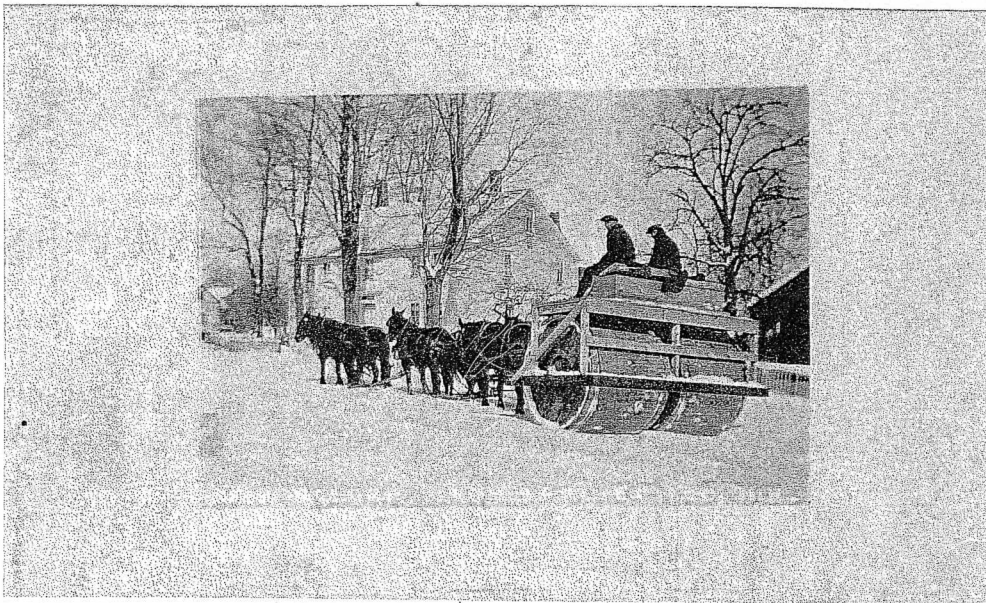
Thank you, Arthur Carpenter, for remembering your old home town. The historical society recently received a much appreciated healthy donation from Arthur Carpenter given in memory of his father, Earl Carpenter Jr. Earl had enjoyed The Pictorial History of Springfield and Arthur wishes there would be another edition.

Thank you also to our wonderful membership who have supported the society with gifts of many kinds, and supported our programs throughout the years. We wish you the best of health, peace and happiness in 2002.

Patsy Heath Caswell, President

DUES NOTICE:

Society dues were "due" as of July 1st. Have you paid yours yet? We need your support!!! Individual dues are a mere \$10 a year and will guarantee that you continue to receive our newsletter and that the wonderful work of our society in preserving our town's history will go on as well. Mail your check to The Springfield Historical Society, PO Box 6, Springfield, NH 03284



Snow Rollers and Kitchen Junkets

Up until the mid 1930's when a gigantic yellow tractor crawled along plowing the roads, and eventually a truck was added, the roads of Springfield were made passable by snow rollers.

The snow rollers were used to pack down the snow on the roads. It is believed the town had more than one. There is an old picture postcard showing four or more horses being driven by Richard Smith and Clyde Sawtelle (identified by Paul Heath). There were cars and trucks in town as well as sleighs at this time. The Springfield Bicentennial Booklet mentions the "kitchen junkets" held in North Springfield. This was north of "Willow Corner" on the Fourth NH Turnpike {where 4A and Four Corners Road intersect}. My grandfather, Carl Heath, was the road agent during some of these years. If there was a Saturday night junket {They were usually held at Hilda Clough's

house, corner of Old Grafton Rd} Carl would hitch up the horses and roll the roads to the party house. The families brought refreshments. They played games and eventually pushed back the chairs to dance to the fiddles of Elmer Hook and Charlie Austin. Later, John and Kirk Heath joined in with John calling the square dances and Kirk on the accordion. Popular square dances were "Portland Fancy", "Virginia Reel", and "Hulls Victory". They also enjoyed two-steps such as "Put on Your Old Grey Bonnet", and then, of course, the waltzes such as "Neath the Shade of the Old Apple Tree". Then as the night was winding down to the waltz, "There's No Place Like Home", Carl Heath and his horses would roll the Fourth NH Turnpike, if necessary, for the revelers to get back home.

[If anyone has more information about the snow rollers or the kitchen junkets in Springfield, please let us know. I know you are out there! We would also like to know how your family and friends made memories in Springfield. That is part of the social history of our town. Patsy Heath]