



January, 2005

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Springfield's own Bill Sullivan will speak at our Thursday, January 13th meeting at the Libbie A. Cass Library conference room at 7:00pm. Bill is a retired US Army Colonel. His last two assignments were in Tel Aviv and Islamabad as military attaché. He teaches at Colby Sawyer's Adventures in Learning. The topic will be events in the history and war of India and Pakistan over Kashmir.

Everyone enjoyed the slides and talk about "Four Hundred Miles of the Connecticut River," given by Michael Tougias at our October meeting.

Thank you, Ed Belfield and Trudy Heath for helping to move the material from the museum to its winter home in the New Hampshire Room at the library. The material may be used for genealogy. Thank you, also, everyone who volunteered to host the museum on Saturdays during the summer. That would not have been possible if Terry and Fred had not helped Muriel Tinkham open the museum in the late Spring.

Reminders:

You can purchase "Collection of Springfield Stories" in several stores in the area, or through the mail. See the last page. If you find a red mark on your newsletter, we have not received your dues.

Patsy Heath Caswell, President,
Springfield Historical Society.

Making Memories:

During this last July, the Belfield clan, who have been coming to Springfield for 100 years (over several generations!!) had a family reunion. The following poem was written for the occasion by Joanne Belfield.

*In Nov. 2904, the first one came.
She was Great Aunt Rachel Coffin by name.*

*You ask, but how did she ever find this place?
That is the very most mysterious case.*

*Most likely, friends back home in DC
Said, "It's HEAVEN, why don't you go up and see?"*

*Across the lake, on the other side of the dirt road,
The present green cottage, became her first abode.*

*As more family arrived and the area became a hit,
Aunt Rachel purchased farmhouse and barn next to it.*

*The 10 bedroom farmhouse could accommodate all
And the family and guests soon filled in spring to fall.*

*So this is how Lake Kolemook's first inn came to be
Named for Yates' poem, it was called CAMP INNISFREE.*

*A boathouse, icehouse, big porch for games,
And faithful cook Bessies' food lured gents and dames.*

*Croquet, badminton, a raft with tower to dive,
Mt Hoyt hikes, fishing, milking cows kept many continuing to arrive.*

In 1938, Percy Belfield Sr, who was Rachel's brother-in-law,
And he was also Ed, Walt, and Nancy's Grandpa,

Wanted to have his very own home base,
So he had Ed Brunell, Louise's Dad, build his place.

Electricity had come to the lake that year
And so "HIDDEN PINES" was born, the cottage right here.

About this time, as family members had a few cries
CAMP INNISFREE was torn down, and thus met its demise.

Soon Percy built another adjacent for family to meet.
HIDEAWAY its called, and now is Horsfalls' lovely retreat.

In '48 Percy's sons John and Perc, built their house and dock
Next to HIDEAWAY, it's known as the LODGE OF BASS ROCK.

AND so 2nd and 3rd generations continued to come
'Till 1976, when all family cottages were sold—was that DUMB!

Though Walter kept up the tradition renting year in and year out
Not many other Belfield faces were seen here and about.

Before you shed tears, tho' about all places sold,
4th and 5th generations from NJ took a step quite bold.

Thanks to Walt's tip, to the lake came the Tice Clan
Candace, Rich, Linda & Frank, Lisa, Alan, and Les & Jan

To buy their great grandad's place were the plans
Thus in 1995, HIDDEN PINES, came back into capable hands.

From PA in '97 to rent BASS ROCK came Jo and Ed.
"There's a place on the lake for sale." Nancy said.

Having no intention to buy, we thought "let's just have a look."
The realtor met us at sunset and we bit like a fish on a hook.

After renting for years, Nancy and Bob looked for some land.
Would you believe, for sale was the boathouse of Foxstand?

In '99 there soon arose around a 100 year old fireplace of stone,
The most magnificent Adirondack home ever known.

Though we won't be around to tell the story I fears,
May the lake family tradition go on another 100 years!

So to celebrate the occasion AND the Tices as host,
Let's now raise our glasses for a LAKE KOLELEMOOK TOAST!

Springfield's Fraternal Organizations

Having recently read in the New England Genealogical Society magazine "New England Ancestors" an article about secret societies, it reminded me that there were a couple in Springfield until circa 1970s. As mentioned in the article, before radio, telephones, movies, TVs, the Internet, and major sports events...membership in a fraternal organization was a way to spend leisure time...It could also provide security for the family in case of premature death by giving insurance benefits. Memberships in fraternal organizations also helped to integrate immigrants into American society.

Going to the Old Pleasant View Cemetery, one can find graves of men such as Daniel Noyes, Esq. whose handsome stone has the sign of the Masons. James Brock was a member of the Odd Fellows which is engraved on his headstone. The stones of James and Isabella Colby have the symbols OES, the Order of Eastern Star, and also the sign of the Masons. There were others belonging to several fraternal organizations. Most of them lived in the mid 1800s to early 1900s. The symbols, especially on the marble stones, are quite attractive. Whether these organizations met in Springfield during this period, is not known at this time. They may have been located in neighboring towns.

The Odd Fellows (IOOF) was influenced by the masonry and founded in 1843 as a separate organization. It was known as "the three links fraternity," standing for friendship, love, and truth. They were active in their communities aiding needy members.

There are thirty different groups of Masonic Orders. It is the world's largest and most imitated fraternal organization. The key elements are ritual, symbolism, secrecy, and morality, as well as fellowship and benevolence. They have homes for the aged and infirmed members. The order of the Eastern Star was formed in 1876 opening the Masonic order to female relatives over the age of eighteen. Emphasis was on ritual, biblical personages, and patriarchal values.

The two fraternal organizations known to have met at the Springfield Town Hall are the Knights of Pythias (KofP) and the Patrons of Husbandry, (the Grange) lasting until around the 1970s.

The Knights of Pythias (KofP) was originally founded in Washington, DC in 1864 for government clerks. Membership later broadened to include any male who supported world peace. Membership in the K of P is mentioned on various stones in Old Pleasant View Cemetery. The Springfield K of P was organized in 1906. The Pythian Sisters, an auxiliary to the K of P, was founded in 1888 in Concord, NH. It was committed to community and public service. The sisters were also part of the Springfield K of P.

The Patrons of Husbandry (POH) more popularly known as the Grange, was founded in Washington, DC in 1867 as a fraternal order for farmers. Seventeen years later, women were admitted as full members. The organization used ideas and symbols of nature and agricultural life, as well as religion. There are secret signs, passwords, and degrees. Life insurance was added in 1914, and later home and auto insurance. Members of the Grange provide community service and are involved in national concerns.

Beaver Grange #283 was organized 25 Sept. 1899 in the Springfield Town Hall by Baxter Gay of New London. There were 28 Charter members. Many familiar Springfield names are listed over the years. By the mid 1940s, early 1950s, the teenagers of the town became members. Other than high school activities, most of our entertainment was in our home town in those years. There were visits exchanged between the Granges of the area towns. The program and entertainment following the business meeting prompted us to join. We met young people from other towns. Many went on to join the Pomona, (county) the State Grange, and then in 1947, members of Beaver Grange took the train out of Potter Place early one November morning for Portland, Maine where we joined the National Grange, arriving back home in the wee hours the next morning. Of this group of young people, only Beverly Brown Bacon is still an active member in Hanover, NH. Except for Dallas Patten, the rest have moved away from Springfield or passed on.

Before the demise of Beaver Grange, Ruby Carpenter had formed a juvenile Grange. The Grange purchased many items for the Town Hall such as the piano, stage curtains, furniture, and dishes. Fiftieth and Sixtieth anniversaries were also celebrated.

One of the Fiftieth Anniversaries celebrated was that of my great grandparents, Joseph and Lucy Severance in 1925. They had married 25 November 1875. They are also the great grandparents of quite a few people living in Springfield today. A lengthy proclamation was read and among other things told of their early membership in Beaver Grange and also the K of P. Joseph had been master for several terms as well as in 1925. Both Joseph and Lucy were members of the Temple Pythian Sisters. Lucy was their "most excellent chief."

Fraternal organizations began to decline by the 1930s. Causes mentioned were immigration restrictions, financial problems due to the Great Depression, World War II, and the amount of time active membership required. By the mid twentieth century, life styles had changed and some organizations had not kept up with the times. Many small towns were becoming bedroom communities off the highways. People were watching TV at home. Both parents were working outside the home and could easily spread their lives too thin by joining organizations. Yet, when people have the time and inclination, there are still fraternal service organizations looking for members.

Patsy Heath Caswell

References upon request.

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SPRINGFIELD Stories @ \$20.00 plus \$2.00
postage**

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