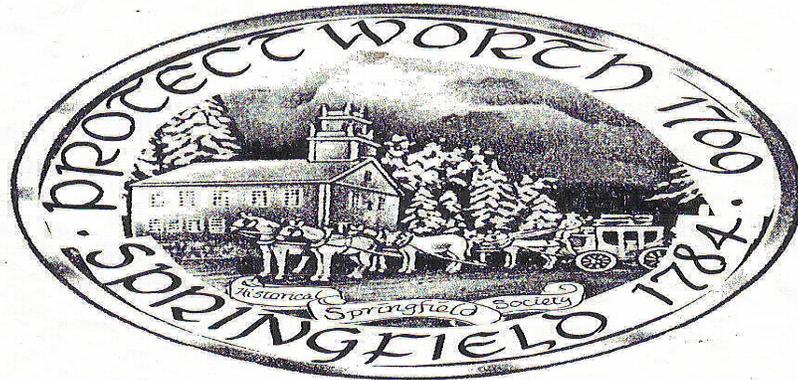


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Springfield Historical Society News
Dedicated to Preserving Springfield, NH's History Since 1984

January 2008

The President's Message:

The Thursday, January 10th Springfield Historical Society meeting will be held at the Springfield Meeting House at 7:00pm. Everyone is welcome. Sharon Wood, of Claremont a storyteller and historian, will give us "A Tribute to Sarah Josephia Hale." Sarah did not approve of women speaking in public so Ms. Wood will speak as a friend. At the end of the program, Ms. Wood will answer questions. The program is made available by the NH Humanities Council which has given us many interesting programs over the years. Why should we be interested in Sarah Josephia Hale? She was born and grew up in our county seat, Newport. Everyone is welcome.

Loss of Another Member:

Springfield Historical Society has lost another member. Richard Eldeen died October 13th. He often taped our speakers as long as he and Dorothy lived in town. Dorothy helped me for several years to survey and record the Springfield cemeteries and graves. A few years ago they moved to West Lebanon to be nearer relatives and medical facilities.

Thank you:

Thanks go to Sue Kidder Murray, Darin Patten, Janet Patten Roberts, and Brad Butcher for taking part in the October Program, "Growing Up in Springfield." I enjoyed it and hope they did also. The audience gave us good reviews!

Thank you, members of the Museum Committee, Julie Slack, curator, Ed Belfield, Peter Neilsen and Ann Neilsen, and volunteers like Trudy Heath who helped. They moved the material back seasonally between the NH Room in the library and the museum, and made all kinds of changes in exhibits. Also, thanks to those of you who gave up your Saturday afternoons to sit the museum. Julie's report is included in this newsletter.

Thank you, Sally Allen who answered my request for a volunteer to help with the survey of stones at Old Pleasant View Cemetery. Due to a rainy week, we finally got to do some stones on the last Saturday before I left town. We now have recorded the information for 617 graves with quite a few more to go!

Thank you, Donna Denniston for providing the refreshments at the October meeting. Delish!

Thank you to the Selectmen and the Town of Springfield for having repairs made and painting done to the museum. It looks great and is appreciated by the officers and members of the historical society.

Thanks. Robert Miller for donating a US flag and volunteering to lower it as required by events.

Other News:

The revised Springfield Historical Society Constitution and By Laws, 2007 was approved at the October meeting by members present. You can read it on the website, or request a copy to be mailed.

Request for Volunteer: We need someone to provide refreshments at the April meeting, which will probably be April 12th. You may contact Patsy Caswell, caswellheath@msn.com, or 401-847-6782.

REMINDER:

THE SPRINGFIELD HISTORICAL MEMBERSHIP DUES NEED TO BE PAID BY DECEMBER 31, 2007.. If not received your membership will be dropped.

We do not want to lose you. Please don't forget. Look for the red reminder dot. If you have suggestions as to how we can improve the society, please let us know.

Don't forget to check SHS out on the website, Springfield.net. Brandt Denniston keeps the site current for SHS.

If you wish to have the newsletter e-mailed to you rather than by "snail mail," see the form in this newsletter, or e-mail our website.

Museum Report by Curator Julie Slack

This was a great spring and summer! Trudy Heath and I cleaned and scrubbed the Museum this spring and took down all the photographs and exhibits. I put the school photos into two photo albums and others into frames. The bear rug is beyond repair due to rodent damage. It's time to dispose of it. When moving the mirror on the wall of the stove pipe a large hole was discovered where the little guys were getting in. Ed Belfield closed it off with insulation so it won't be a problem this year.

The Goodhue portraits are up and the exhibits are complete. Also the quilt donated by Nyla Waddell is on display in one of the wooden cases. All the names are listed as well. The portraits will be moved to the Libbie Cass Library in the next few weeks to keep with the promise of keeping them on display. The quilt will be stored at Trudy's sister's house with her other precious quilts.

The new paint job was done and looks amazing! The hemlocks surrounding the Museum perimeter will be coming down as well compliments of Davey Tree Service. I'm working on a date.

The open house held August 1st was a little disappointing- yet fun. It was HOT and few people showed up, but we drank a lot of punch, ate orange sherbet and maple cookies!

Ed did a wonderful job finding volunteers to man the Museum all summer. Peter got the sign and it drew people in! It's a great investment. He is also working on flattening out the maps and putting them into the map file. Ann will be helping me with the filing this fall and winter. One night a month will be "acquisitions night" in the NH room and the new form will start being used. Also, thanks to Brandt's donation of his computer, the catalog will be transferred to a searchable database as well (FileMaker Pro). Of course a printed copy will never be omitted!

The Grantham Historical Society stopped into the Museum and liked it so much they asked us to come and give them some hints on how to set up their new space at the old police station. They have a great space but few items. I was surprised to see they have no photographs AT ALL in their exhibits—and don't have access to them because their archivist won't let them! I suggested they get them scanned and copied like we did. All our photographs are a great benefit to our exhibits!

This fall and winter will also be spent working on archiving photographs, documents and textiles. The Museum committee decided to purchase two identical file cabinets to store photographs and genealogy information (in acid free folders) which will keep them out of the light but easily accessible. To transfer them between the Museum and the NH room the drawers can just be transferred. This system will allow the items to remain filed and sorted. Other more delicate items, including textiles such as the WWI shirt and flags, will be stored in archival boxes for the winter so they will be away from the elements and the mice. The bear rug needs to be disposed of—any ideas?

Storage was left in the back room and it needs to be closed off more for next year. We don't want everything on display and will need to have an area for storage of exhibits not on display—especially large items; perhaps a taller collapsible wall or even a long sheet to block off the area—something to make it more appealing.

check out our website, Springfield.net. Any wishing to make a donation, please see the form on page 5 of this newsletter.

Criteria for Springfield Historical Society Scholarship

1. Must be a Springfield resident.
2. Must have been accepted at an approved school for further education.
3. Must write a letter of application describing your educational plans, your high school experience, and your purposes and/or needs for this scholarship. You should include a brief summary of the years you have lived in Springfield and any involvement you and/or your family may have had with the town. The letter must include your full name and address as well as your parents' (guardians') names and addresses.
4. Preference may be given to students whose family members belong to the Springfield Historical Society.
5. Applications are due by April 30th. Please send the paperwork to Trudy Heath, PO Box 297, Springfield, NH 03284.
6. Presentation plans will be made at Senior Night, Kearsarge High School or as appropriate.

