



SPRINGFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
POST OFFICE BOX 6  
WEST SPRINGFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

September 16, 2001

**President's Message**

The Springfield Historical Society will meet on Thursday evening, October 11, 2001 at 6 p.m. in the Springfield Town Hall where board member, Janet Roberts will once again hostess another delicious potluck dinner on behalf of our society. Please call Janet at 763-2469 to RSVP and let her know what food you plan to bring! The public is invited to attend just the dinner or to stay and join us for the wonderful program which follows at 7 p.m. when Lawrence Douglas, Professor of History at Plymouth State College, will present "Through the Eye of the Camera: The Changing Rural World of New Hampshire." This program is built upon memories and images of a different time and a very different New Hampshire. The memories will be supplied by those in attendance while the images are provided by film of the area around Keene, New Hampshire taken by Reginald Howe and George Warwick in the 1920's and 1930's. By viewing the thirty minute film, some memory-dredging and discussion, we will bring into focus the NH of farms and small communities of almost a hundred years ago. At that time, the state, its communities and the people were experiencing the great social, economic and cultural changes that took place in America as a result of the industrial revolution of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

As America experienced a transition from a primarily rural and agricultural to an urban

and industrial nation,,,,, virtually everything we knew began to change. The automobile, telephone, and radio brought the country and the world closer to us and turned our focus and interests from the inner world of ourselves and our immediate community to the larger world. The days of horses as the prime mover and rolling the snow on the roads in the winter instead of plowing it were gone. The small one and two room schools were replaced by centralized schools and busing.

For a short time, then, as we view the film and share our memories, we'll be able to travel down that dusty country road and talk about the way things used to be. Please join us!

**Notes from the Museum**

*Muriel Tinkham, Museum Curator*

The New London Archives has sent our society the newest edition of the New London History. Also Trudy Heath has donated a copy of "The Finns of Newport". Both of these books are being kept in the Historical Museum.

During the summer months, Muriel was kept very busy with requests from all over the country for assistance with genealogy research. From New Brunswick came a call for information on William Moran who resided in Springfield in the 1830's. From California, came a request for information on Theophilus Clough and from Michigan, a request for information on the Kinsmans and Fowlers of Fowlertown.

Thank you, Muriel, for all your efforts in assisting these people on behalf of the town of Springfield!!

## Interesting Women in Springfield's Past

Unfortunately, somewhere along the line, history became "his story" and the women who were the fabric holding the families together or who died in child birth trying, were not always given credit in the writing of history. Charles McDaniel did mention five women in his early history of Springfield.

The proprietors of Protectworth, meeting in Portsmouth, NH on June 14, 1782 after voting on taxes etc., voted to give Judith Clifford, wife of Israel Clifford Jr., 50 acres of land because she had been the first female to settle in Protectworth.

Somewhere around 1780, Eben and Lydia Loverin and their six children, walked from Salisbury, NH on snowshoes carrying the youngest in their arms. (We can imagine who "their" was!) Try that sometime! The family was very involved in town life and married into families still located in Springfield and the surrounding towns.

One young veteran of the Battle of Bunker Hill, James Carr Hazzard, married Betsy Greeley from Salisbury, NH on February 17, 1787. They were one of the first 20 families in town. Betsy sowed apple seeds that she had brought from her father's Salisbury apple orchard on their new farm, which later became known as the Town Farm and is located on the Town Farm Hill and Hazzard Road West. Not only did Betsy raise apples, but she also raised 11 children!

In 1810 Sally Sanders from Grafton, NH became the bride of Joseph Bailey who had moved to Springfield from Old Haverhill, MA. Sally brought a white face cow from Grafton to her new farm in Springfield. There were still descendants of that white face cow in the late 1800's. There are also descendants of Sally and Joseph Bailey in Springfield at the beginning of the 21st century!

Susan Augusta Adams, daughter of the country store keeper, Daniel Noyes Adams, was an adventurous soul. Born in 1833 and well-educated at Kimball Union Academy, she taught in towns in NH, NY and MA before she married a minister, Lucian Adams, with the same last name. They went to Turkey or Syria (both are mentioned by McDaniel in two different areas) as missionaries where Susan August died in 1866.

We begin to hear more about women as we move into the mid 19th century and the 14 school districts are formed in Springfield. Originally most of the school teachers were men and were paid a larger salary, but gradually there were more women teaching in the schools, although they were paid less. There

were summer sessions and winter sessions. A teacher might teach a summer session in one school and a winter session in another. If they were local, the ladies may have lived at home, but if they lived across town or were from out of town, they boarded with a family in the district where they found themselves teaching. This was not an easy occupation with students ranging in age from 4 to 18 years. Some teachers were lucky enough to go to "institute" for a session or two; others were simply older than their students. By the 20th century, many of the young teachers were coming to Springfield from other parts of the state. Their marriage to the local men gave "new blood" to the town and their descendants are still living in town.

The following are some examples of early teachers who were not afraid to speak out and put comments in their record books that can still be read today. Sometimes they were parents who, wanting their children educated, ended up teaching themselves or making sure their children received schooling somewhere. This brings to mind Elsie Dozois. When Kempton School, District #2 near the Wilmot line, lost its population, she had to solve the problem. During the school year of 1908-09, she boarded her daughters with Hilda Clough who lived farther north on the Fourth NH Turnpike in the Maxfield School District. The town paid \$9.00 for the board. The following year, Mrs. Dozois was paid \$10.00 by Springfield for conveying her daughters to the Dodge School in Wilmot, and Springfield also paid Wilmot \$5.00 tuition. Off and on from 1913 to 1918, the school was in operation again, and it was Elsie Dozois who taught school. Her salary was \$32.00 a month in 1917-1918. By 1925, the school was closed, and Mrs. Grace Russell transported any students to Maxfield School again and was paid \$34.00.

Miss Julia Lane, teaching at District #3 near Starr Pond School in the summer of 1859-60 in her report said that "the mumps had hurt attendance. The school was not well furnished, even without textbooks." Her ten week salary was \$16.00 including board.

Elizabeth Fellows, recording in the only known register of District #4 which was probably on Shad Hill, wrote "where they have so little schooling...they are diligent and studious and manifest a good degree of interest.". There were no tardies either session which was unusual because the rate was generally very high throughout the school system.

Sarah Haseltine had just received a visit at #9 School which may have been located on the road to Georges Mills by the 1857-58 school year. The visit was from the county district commissioner, Dr. William Barton and Charles McDaniel. She had attended one session of institute and taught three and one half months. Sarah was inspired to write the following in her record book

"Dr. Barton looked at the children,  
He viewed the schoolhouse, too  
And declared the house was -o, shocking to  
view.

He told the scholars to go home and entreat  
And even to bow to their parents (sic) feet,  
And not meet a defeat, till they heard the news,  
We'll have a new school house and get rid of the blues,

He wondered we didn't quarrel and fight.  
But Sir, we did not - we stood for the right  
And kept such things far out of our mind.  
For our motto is - be always kind.  
If I only had time much more I could say  
Of the good advice he gave us that day."

With the formation of the Lake Sunapee Visiting Nurse Association in 1916, another group of women began serving the local communities. Many could be named, but the first was Mrs. Stryker and her Morgan horse, Jane. She would be a hard act to follow. Mrs. Stryker was nurse in this capacity for nine years. She served the towns of Springfield, New London, Sunapee and Georges Mills. She traveled throughout the area visiting schools, checking the health of students and giving hygiene lessons. She could be found from one end of her region to the other in a given day treating all kinds of health problems, and this was by horse and buggy or slay oftentimes taking shortcuts across the ice on Lake Sunapee. On at least one occasion, her dining room table became an operating table for Springfield youngsters, in this case the Collins family, to have their tonsils removed. Dr. Nathan Griffin and Dr. Anna Littlefield from New London performed the procedure. There was no New London Hospital at this time. The closest was the Carrie F. Wright Hospital in Newport.

Springfield women began running for office in Springfield as early as 1889 when Ella McDaniel first ran for the school board. She was highly respected teacher in town. She lost on her first try, but in 1890, won a three year position and served several years after that. Early attempts of Mrs. Moses Moyes to run

for district clerk, and Sara Tobine to run for school board were not successful. By the 1920's the ladies became more successful. Familiar names of school board members were Helen Philbrick, Addie Philbrick, Hilda Clough, Jane Hill, and Eva Gardner. From the 1920's to present day the women of Springfield began to play an ever increasing roll in town administration as they had previously performed in education.

*Patsy Heath Caswell*

## ***God Bless America !***

***If you have not already done so, it is time to pay your dues!! Our society depends on you for support.***

**Annual Dues July 1, 2001- June 30,2002**

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