



September, 2003

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Springfield Historical Society Board has planned a change of pace for our October, 2003 meeting. Fred Davis has organized an antique appraisal show Springfield style. It will be held at the meeting house on October 11th from 10 am to 4 pm. The price will be \$5.00 for one item and \$10.00 for three items. There will be four appraisers. Terry Davis is organizing a food sale to take place at the same time. We will also have some booklets, etc. from the historical society for sale. Raffle tickets will be sold for a 14x18in. oil painting of Lake Kroleemook, an eastern view, by Pat Caswell. The raffle tickets will be sold at each of our meetings for the rest of the year. The drawing will be at our annual meeting, July 2004. The cost of the tickets will be \$1.00 a ticket, six for \$5.00.

IMPORTANCE OF DUES

If you have not paid your dues, please do so soon. Our year is from July 1st to June 30th. We depend on the dues for most of our day to day expenses. During the last year, our expenses were more than our income. Your support is very important to the historical society.

NEW PROJECT NEEDS YOUR HELP!

We are hoping that you will respond to this appeal for funds!

Bob Nulsen is chairing a committee that has been gathering and editing the Springfield stories published in the newsletters over the last ten years. We have the material. We have the printer. We do not have the funds. To publish

500 copies of the book costs \$3500. The sale of the books takes place over a long period of time, so it does not generate the immediate cash we need. *The Pictorial History* we published in the past was popular. We are hoping this will be also. We would appreciate your help. It is tax deductible. Checks may be mailed to Trudy Heath, Treasurer, SHS, Box 6, Springfield, NH 03284.

THANK YOUS

The porch on the museum was in poor condition. Thanks go to Fred Davis who has replaced the rotten posts and made other repairs. We also appreciate the 6x6s donated by Ben Kezar. While Fred was working on the outside, Terry Davis spruced up the inside of the museum for the season. All the work that Muriel Tinkham does to staff the museum with volunteers and organize the museum is appreciated. Thanks also, to all of you who volunteered during the summer. You make it possible for us to keep the museum open on Saturdays.

OFFICERS FOR 2003-2004

President...Patsy Caswell
 Vice President...Don Garlock
 Secretary... Donna Denniston
 Treasurer...Trudy Heath
 Board: 1yr. Fred Davis
 2yrs. Bob Nulsen
 3yrs. Muriel Tinkham

SPRINGFIELD SCHOOLS

The following is a continuation of excerpts from the history of the 14 school districts that were once located throughout Springfield.

FOWLERTOWN, DISTRICT 8

The Fowlertown School was located in the eastern part of Springfield, south and east of Mud Pond and the Fourth New Hampshire Turnpike, (4A) near the Springfield/Wilmoth town line.

During the 1857-58 school year, the five week summer term was taught by Rhoda Dunlap. Her salary, including board, was \$8.00. She had 35 students, 27 of whom were girls. They were listed in her register as "ladies," and "gentlemen." The youngest student was 3 years old and the oldest eighteen! The tardy rate to school was quite high. During the summer session alone, the students were tardy a total of twenty times. During the winter term taught by Celeste Kempton, only eight students were never tardy. The others averaged eighty-nine times.

As early as 1863, Fowlertown School was declared unfit. There is no record of what they did to improve it at that time.

The ten week second term in 1876, was taught by Fred Langley. He was 17 years old. There were thirteen students ranging in age from 5 to 13 years of age. Mr. Langley was paid \$12.00. The only subjects he taught were spelling, penmanship, arithmetic, and geography.

Annie Whipple was paid \$30.00 for teaching ten weeks in 1894. There seemed to have been no school for several years. The town of Springfield paid Wilmoth \$10.00 for twenty weeks of school for two Leavitt children during the 1902-03 school year. In 1903-04, Mrs. Edgar Fowler was paid \$36.00, including board, to teach for twelve weeks. The following year she was paid \$13.00 to teach Caroline Fowler and Ella Palmer for thirteen weeks. By 1915-1916, Fowlertown is no longer listed as a school district. Any children living in this part of town may have attended District #13 school, or been tuition students in Wilmoth. It was around this time that Fowlertown was abandoned.

DISTRICT #9 MORGAN SCHOOL

District #9 School was located in the southern part of town, half-way down the hill on the right-hand side of the Georges Mills Road when leaving Springfield. This was not the original

location. *The History of Springfield* by Charles McDaniel tells of the first school house that was built in District #9 situated then on the Old New London Road, near the spot known as the "Devil's Den. Daniel Richardson had also set up a Sabbath School in the building. No date was given.

The first record of District #9 School in the 1857-58 school register, showed that Sarah Haseltine taught both sessions. Her salary was \$12.00, including board, for each session. The youngest was three (not uncommon!) and the oldest student was nineteen years of age... School was six days a week. No one had perfect attendance for forty-eight days.... After the visit by Dr. William Barton, County Commissioner, and Superintendent Charles McDaniel, Sarah Haseltine wrote the following poem in the back of her register under comments by the teacher:

"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 good 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."

A seven week summer session was taught by Millie Philbrick during the 1868-69 school year. She was considered one of the best teachers in the system at the time. The discipline and recitations were so good the school committee only visited once during the summer term... She also taught the seven week winter term and had the best grammar class in town. The school committee used the occasion to lament that it was often neglected "in our schools." The two weakest subjects taught were geography and reading.

Sadie Putney taught two terms in 1892. There were nine students both terms which were a total of fifteen weeks. Families attending #9 School in the 1890s were Putney, Rogers, Loverin,

Allen, and Smith. The families showed support by visiting the school both terms. Including the school board, there were 20 visitors the first term and 9 visitors the second term.

The final record for Morgan #9 School was for the school year 1933-34. Elsie Smith taught six students. By 1939, plans were being made to sell the building. It has since been sold to Tony Russell of Georges Mills and moved to another location. From 1935-1948, the students were transported to Center School, and later to Memorial School until Springfield joined the Kearsarge School District.

DISTRICT #10 STOCKER/SANBORN HILL SCHOOL

District #10 School seemed to actually have been across the town line in Grantham. It was on the left-hand side of the Baptist Pond Road going northeast. It was near the intersection of the Baptist Pond Road and the Sanborn Hill Road. It was south of the cemetery. This school opened the same year that Springfield lost Heath's Gore to Grantham. It is believed to have served the Springfield children that may have gone to #7 school, which was believed to be in the Gore.

Families represented at the #10 School in the late 1850s were Pillsbury, Stocker, Sanborn, Eastman, Grof, Osborn, Quimby, Colby, Bartlett, Richardson, Patten, Powers, Currier, Bowers and several names that were unreadable.

During the 1868-69 school year, Miss Irene Henryhill taught an eight week summer term to 24 students. The school and teacher were given high marks by the school committee. David Frye who taught the eight week winter term, was also considered an excellent teacher who made the students self reliant. "The school was but forty -four days, with perfect order, a harmony worth more to the districts that three times as many days and the charge of some of our cheaper and poor teachers{sic} if teachers we call ALL who keep school." This was probably Charles McDaniel reporting because he aided Supt. Adams during the winter term of this school year.

During the 1881-82 school year...the fall term lasted a little over thirteen weeks, and was taught by Clarence Cleney, a new teacher. There were 13 students ranging in age from five to eighteen. There was a public examination at the end of the term. (Exams were taking place in several of the schools.) There were 34 visitors including Supt. Charles McDaniel and Prudential Committee member, Newton Clough, probably due to the public examination ...

By 1917-18, Mrs. Stryker, the school nurse was visiting #10 School...On November 9th she spoke on the subject, "Washing the Teeth," November 20th, the topic was "Preventing Colds, Food and Body," and on May 23rd, she examined the children's throats. There were ten students, Albert and Doris Ansley, John, Kenneth, Thelma and Velora Lane, Clayton Pillsbury, and Bernice Rogers. Two names in the old register could not be read.

Five students were registered in #10 School in 1926-27, the last year that Sanborn Hill School was in operation. Dora Reney Gross was the last teacher. The building was purchased by Leon and Verna Cote and turned into a home.

To be continued. A more in depth coverage of Springfield's early school district can be found in the Springfield Historical Society Museum.

OLD SAYINGS RETURNED

After the July newsletter, these sayings were returned to me.

Give it a lick and a promise (when cleaning or doing a job)

(Close the door.) Were you brought up in a barn?

Judas Priest (Name is from Bible. It is a respectable swear!) Also, Jumpin' Jheosapht!

MEMBERSHIP, July 1,2003-June30,2004

New _____ Renewal _____ Gift _____

_____ \$10.00 Individual

_____ \$25.00 Business

_____ \$100.00 Life Membership

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (_____) _____

Mail to:

Trudy Heath, Treasurer
Springfield Historical Society
Box 6, Springfield, NH 03284

A RED DOT MEANS THAT YOUR DUES ARE DUE. If you have paid in the meantime, please excuse the notice.

Springfield Historical Society
Treasurer's Report 7/7/03

Annual Report

Certificate of Deposit Balance: \$3242.82

Checkbook Balance As of 7/7/03 \$2707.05

Assets \$5949.87

Income as of 7/7/03 \$1058.55

Interest Income as of 7/7/03 1.73

Total Income \$1060.28

Expenses as of 7/7/03 \$1702.91

Income Versus Expenses \$-642.63

Income/Expense

1/1/03 Through 7/7/03

| Category Description | 1/1/03- 7/7/03 |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| INCOME | |
| Uncategorized | 1,058.55 |
| Interest Inc | 1.73 |
| TOTAL INCOME | <u>1,060.28</u> |
| EXPENSES | |
| Advertising | 220.40 |
| Copying | 216.22 |
| Dues | 105.00 |
| Misc | 530.00 |
| Postage | 44.40 |
| Speaker | 497.78 |
| Supplies | 25.98 |
| Utilities | 63.13 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | <u>1,702.91</u> |
| OVERALL TOTAL | <u>-642.63</u> |