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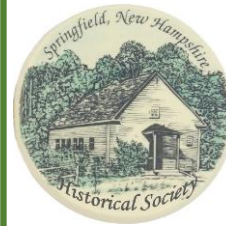
Springfield Historical Society  
PO Box 6  
Springfield, NH 03284



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR 2022!



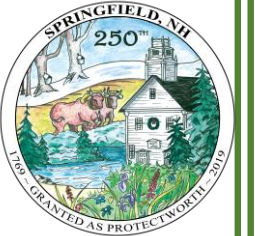
- April 13<sup>th</sup>** Banjo Music
- April 23<sup>rd</sup>** Rubber Duckie Race
- May 28<sup>th</sup>** Grand Opening, Waffles & Scholarship Presentations
- June 4<sup>th</sup>** Bake Sale & Genealogy Picture Identification
- June 11<sup>th</sup>** Agricultural Event
- June 18<sup>th</sup>** Revolutionary War Encampment & Pulled Pork Lunch
- July 2<sup>nd</sup>** Hot Dogs, Root Beer Floats & Bake Sale
- July 9<sup>th</sup>** Ramble Round The Lake 5K
- July 13<sup>th</sup>** SHS Annual Meeting, Pot Luck & Live Music
- July 23<sup>rd</sup>** Hot Dogs, Root Beer Floats & Bake Sale & Genealogy
- August 13<sup>th</sup>** Ice Cream Making
- August 20<sup>th</sup>** Maple Syrup Making Lecture
- September 3<sup>rd</sup>** Apple Cider Making & Bake Sale
- September 14<sup>th</sup>** Hoptimystic Event plus Speaker (Beer Making in NH)
- October 8<sup>th</sup>** Sip-A-Soup



# Springfield Historical Society

## Fall-Winter 2022 Newsletter

### Message to Members from the Board President



What a FULL year 2021 was for the Historical Society, its members, volunteers and visitors. Organizationally, a revised constitution was adopted with a mission statement that gave us a greater focus to be “the responsible steward of Springfield’s legacy by preserving and sharing Springfield’s cultural heritage...”

Preservation is a key objective of our mission. Last Spring, preservation included volunteers tearing out the museum’s moldy carpeting only to discover a beautiful floor with markings where school desks once stood. Relocating the collection for the floor refinishing enabled us to rearrange items to be more visible and organized into preservation boxes and files. The process unearthed some treasures, which we highlight in each edition of our newsletter.

Sharing Springfield’s heritage was a focus for 2021 – the museum welcomed many visitors through the summer with many Saturdays being a-buzz with activity – highlights were many:

- Revolutionary War Encampment and Muster by the First New Hampshire Regiment
- Lamb Petting and Sheep raising demonstration
- Genealogy workshop
- Bake sales with themes like “Good-bye Black Flies” and “Maple and Apple delights”
- Apple Cider and Maple Syrup making

In addition to our annual events, the Rubber Duckie race and the Ramble Round the Lake 5K race, we organized two lunches --- pulled pork and sip-a-soup – with good food and company. Throughout the summer, the Springfield community and many newcomers (including 16 new members) enjoyed the entertainment, food and storytelling of Springfield’s history. It was wonderful!

Several additions to the museum’s collection were made in 2021, recognizing Springfield’s on-going history-making. Among these were a wooden spool from the fiber optic cabling project completed in 2021, and newspaper clippings of the great achievements of Springfield sisters Margaret and Vera Rivard in long-distance open water swimming.

Seven Springfield students who demonstrated community engagement were awarded scholarships on the museum’s opening day. Congratulations to them all!

The “preserving and sharing” carried through to the launch of a major project to expand the exhibition space – by building a barn to better display the town’s agricultural heritage. As the accompanying article details, this has become a true community project which we look forward to having the local community celebrate upon the barn’s completion in 2022!

2021 was quite a landmark year for the Historical Society instilling new energy and enthusiasm into the community’s support for preserving and sharing Springfield’s legacy. Thanks to all the volunteers that helped make for a great year. We look forward to welcoming you at the museum and at the many events planned for 2022! Jim Bednar

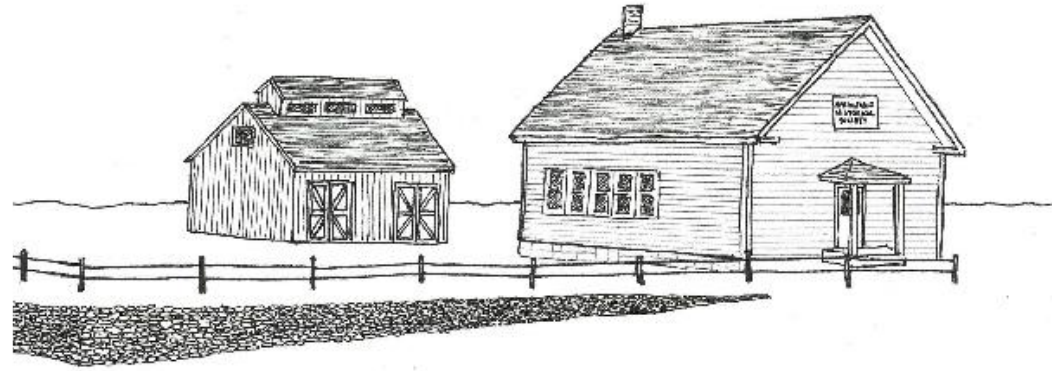
**Visit out ‘New’ Website [www.historicalspringfieldnh.org](http://www.historicalspringfieldnh.org)**

We have just completed a major facelift to our website. Thanks to the expertise of Bonnie Fladung, the site is up-to-date and more dynamic. New content, information and pictures are being added as we make more discoveries and provide the latest information on our events and activities.

#### MISSION STATEMENT

SHS is the responsible steward of Springfield’s legacy by preserving and sharing Springfield’s cultural heritage from the beginning through today to ensure current and future generations know, understand and appreciate our history.

## Raise the Barn ... Update



The barn project progressed in a truly community way! The Cuttings hosted a wonderful day with teams of oxen and horses slugging through some pretty deep mud to pull out huge beautiful pine logs from the forest. The onlookers enjoyed roasted hot dogs and a variety of cookies as they cheered them on.

The pine logs were transformed into boards thanks to the generous work of Bruno Minard. They are nicely stacked and covered, seasoning until they become the barn walls. And this month Ken Jacques is harvesting and sawing the handsome hemlocks that will become the barn's solid frame.

At the same time, members of the Historical Society board reached out to the community for financial contributions to fund the concrete, windows, shingles and hardware. The response was overwhelming and the \$10,000 target was achieved! Thank you ALL!

Of course a key element of the project is organizing the volunteer builders to raise the barn. We are pleased to announce Chris Gaherty has agreed to take the lead. But he can't do it alone. So...

**CALLING ON ALL CARPENTERS** – professional and amateur – **TO JOIN IN THE BARN RAISING!**

An informational meeting will be held on Thursday, February 10 at 7:00 in the Protectworth Room in the Town Office Building. Review of the plans, organizing the work and setting a schedule will be on the agenda. Come see the drawings and see where you might be a part of this community project! *Jim Bednar*



## Call for Scholarship Applications – Due April 30<sup>th</sup>

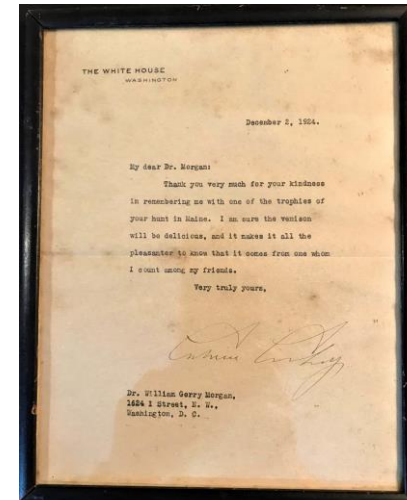
The SHS Scholarship is to be awarded to a Springfield high school senior, a present Springfield resident attending a school of further education, or a Springfield resident who has completed the Kearsarge Adult Diploma Program. Application may be obtained from the Guidance Office at KRHS, the Springfield Town Office, the committee members, or by downloading at [www.historicalspringfield.org](http://www.historicalspringfield.org).

### **Tell us your story!**

We are always in search of good stories to share with our members just email Poul at [peheimann@gmail.com](mailto:peheimann@gmail.com)

## Exciting Discoveries Feature

As we work our way through the cataloguing and organizing of the Historical Society collection sometimes we pick up something that has been there in front of us all the time but suddenly pops out at us. That is the case with the two recent discoveries.



As we have been doing all along with items out in the open for display, these are being evaluated for condition and importance to prioritize conservation efforts. In a frame on “The White House” stationary dated 1924, was a letter to Dr W G Morgan, thanking him for a gift of venison. Beneath it, a very faded nearly unreadable signature. The signature turned out to be the object of considerable debate and guess work among us until that ever-reliable internet search confirmed that in fact it was a signed letter from President Calvin Coolidge to Dr Morgan. Dr. Morgan had a practice in Washington DC and a summer home on Philbrick Hill here in Springfield. So far we have not found any background documentation as to how it came to be in the Historical Society collection.



In a small cloth lined tray in the display cases sat an assorted collection of old coins. They obviously had been in use at one time and needed some light cleanup and sorting. Upon closer inspection there was indeed a wonderful collection of coins including a 1795 Liberty silver dollar through to zinc (to save cooper for the war effort) pennies issued in 1943 during World War II. What added a human touch was that a number of the coins had been pierced at one time so they might be worn on a string. This was common in the 19<sup>th</sup> century when several of the coins had been repurposed and embossed with lettering so that might be worn as jewelry. An 1838 Liberty dime had the initials “C H” stamped in with a hole for attaching it to either bracelet or brooch. The embossing was a nice piece of collaborative evidence for who might have contributed the collection of assorted coins. A few weeks later while going thru an unsorted collection of papers, two sheets of paper recorded an inventory of coins and amongst those were a number identified as the “Heath coins” Carl Heath (or most likely his wife Clara Severance Heath) may have been the donor(s) as the evidenced by the 1839 initialed “C H” charm. Once again proving how important documentation and cataloguing is to the archives.

*Greg Bruss*



## Membership

Membership dues for 2022 are now due. We encourage you to stay connected to the SHS and invite your friends and neighbors to join. Please use the enclosed card to make payment and update your information.

  
[www.historicalspringfieldnh.org](http://www.historicalspringfieldnh.org)