



OL

Trudy Heath, Scholarship & Museum
Poul Heilmann, Communications
Angela MacCreighton, Treasurer
Gregory Bruss, Secretary
Pixie Hill, Vice President
Jim Bednar, President

Springfield Historical Society
PO Box 6
Springfield, NH 03284



The Springfield Historical Society's events for 2021 offer something for everyone. MARK YOUR 2021 CALENDAR !

April 14th – *Speaker: New Hampshire's Long Love-Hate relationship with its Agricultural Fairs*

April 25th - Rubber Ducky Race

June 5th – *Pulled Pork Dinner* (Take-out option)

July 10th - *Ramble Round the Lake 5K*

July 14th - *Springfield Historical Society Annual Meeting* and fiddle music

October 15th – *Speaker: Our National Thanksgiving: With Thanks to President Lincoln and Mrs. Hale*

November 6th - *Sip-A-Soup* Lunch



Springfield Historical Society Fall /Winter 2020 Newsletter



Message to Members from the Board President

GREETINGS ALL! There have been a lot of changes at the Springfield Historical Society. Early this year Alice Nulsen retired from the Board after many dedicated decades of support and leadership. In June, we lost our dear member and friend Janet LeBrecht. We will miss her energy and constant smile. In addition, we extend a huge thank you to Donna and Brandt Denniston who decided to step down from the Board of Directors. Donna has been active in the HS for over 24 years, contributing tirelessly including serving as Board Secretary and President. Brandt contributed endless hours, most recently diligently guiding our finances and leading fundraising as Treasurer. The Board extends our deepest gratitude to them both for their dedicated service. Their contributions will be missed!

As a result, I was asked to be the President and we welcomed several new Board members: Pixie Hill becomes Vice President; Angela MacCreighton takes our financial reigns as Treasurer; and Poul Heilmann brings his seasoned insights to guide our priorities, organization's development and communication. As we were unable to hold our annual General Meeting, these changes were approved by the existing members at a special meeting. The new Board is energized and looking forward to exciting developments to come in the short and long run.

In August, the SHS reached out to the Northeast Document Conservation Center for their expertise and worked with Preservation Specialist Becky Geller to do an assessment which detailed steps we should take to best preserve Springfield's history. The resulting report set the launching pad for our strategic planning. With the recommendations in the assessment, Board members Trudy Heath and Gregory Bruss began to sort and inventory all the materials. And what discoveries they have made!

Of course Springfield has had to deal with the COVID virus as we all have and we welcome stories of how you have been coping with the virus as Leigh Callaway describes his family's adventures. In looking to the future, the Board unanimously agreed that we needed to make the adjustments and keep our momentum. With renewed energy we held the October lecture, observing appropriate protocols due to the pandemic. We had to limit the numbers but those who attended enjoyed a wonderful talk about NH barns and urged us to continue to have in-person events if possible.

The Board hopes their excitement and energy is contagious! We continue to need your support and hope you will join us as we move forward with many great improvements at the museum and numerous events planned for 2021 to celebrate Springfield's rich history!

Jim Bednar



MISSION STATEMENT *(Operating)*

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.

California Refugees

(A look at how Springfield Residents cope with the Pandemic)

In the summer of 2020, wildfires were sweeping parts of California. It was the time of the Covid-19 pandemic and racial unrest in some major American cities. In late August, a mob of 700 set fire to a courthouse in Oakland, smashed shop windows and hurled bottles at police.

In early September, the fog in San Francisco turned orange and the Bay Area was covered in wood smoke. The Governor had issued executive orders ranging from mandated wearing of masks, to remaining indoors and closing in-person schooling.

Our younger son and his family live in Piedmont, a “doughnut hole” city of 6,358 people per square mile within Oakland. He and his wife are instructors and researchers at the University of California Berkeley. Their daughter is 10, their son is 7. All four were required to work and study in a “virtual” environment of “distance learning” at home. They lived their lives on two Apple Macs and two iPads. There was the constant possibility of an electricity blackout and except for grocery shopping, they were essentially confined to their home on a lot of less than a tenth of an acre, squeezed in among thousands of others. Acquaintances who had children with breathing difficulties simply got in the car and left for anywhere with clean air.

In early September, they found an RV trailer online for rent in Sunapee and on a Sunday they packed the computers, the terrier dog and two bicycles and flew to Logan. They rented a car and camped that night in our shed. The next day, the RV arrived and they hooked it up to electricity and water. They were strict in their quarantine for two weeks, even to the extent of having groceries delivered.

Using a cellular “hotspot” gadget, they lived virtual and uninterrupted for three weeks in Springfield (population 30 per square mile), studying, teaching, paddling canoes, training our Aussie puppy and exploring Class VI roads and SRK greenway trails on bikes. The little boy enjoyed exploring the woods, feeding crickets to frogs, eating breakfast in the canoe and sinking it for fun. The girl continued her voracious reading, swam with her mother and bonded with the Aussie. Our son spoke of Morgan pond and the farm at the end of Nichols Hill Road with a creative collection of superlatives. The terrier was annoyed by the puppy but ecstatic with room to romp and chase chipmunks. The hotspot didn’t perform like their 30 megabits at home, but it worked.

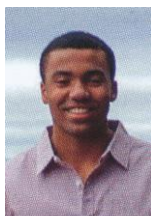
When describing their trip to friends, we asked them to emphasize New Hampshire’s winters, mud season and bug season. Everything else must be kept secret.

Leigh and Happy Callaway, September 2020



2020 Springfield Historical Society Scholarship Winners

Despite the pandemic, the Springfield Historical Society was able to present scholarships to four Springfield student to help them with their college expenses and continuing education. In 2020 we were able to award four \$500 scholarships to Springfield residents who are currently in high school planning or are currently attending the next level of their education. Good luck to each one of them!



Brendan Akpan
*Sophomore at
University of New
Hampshire*



**Courtney
Goodwin**
*University of New
Hampshire*



Patrick Geary
*Southern Maine
University*



**Seth Rutledge-
Davis**
*University of
South Dakota*

Springfield Historical Society Membership

Please join or renew for 2021



Name _____
Street/PO Box _____
City/Town _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ E mail _____
Individual \$15 _____ Family \$25 _____ Individual Lifetime \$125 _____
Donations are always welcome:
Scholarship Fund _____ Memorial Fund _____ General Fund _____
In memory of _____
Please make check payable to Springfield Historical Society, PO Box 6, Springfield, NH 03284.
Thank you for your continued support!

Organizing the Past into the Future

Invigorated by long periods of boredom during our quasi-lockdowns the SHS board began to define where the Society has been and where we should go into the future. Over the past few months we have outlined priorities of activities and future plans to ensure the sustainability of our stewardship and the legacies of Springfield. The first order of business was to streamline our mission statement to capture our charter moving forward. We are treating this ‘new’ Mission as our operating guidepost until we can officially ratify it at the Annual Meeting next July. Feedback is always welcome.

Additionally we have set priorities for our focused efforts in 2021 (and beyond) linked directly to the Mission. As Jim notes in his message to the members we had a preliminary assessment and report from the Northeast Document Conservation Center which is a fantastic guide in setting our priorities. This has triggered a lot of hard work in identifying the inventory of materials we currently have, where they are currently stored, cataloguing the information for easy access and ensuring they are appropriately handled for long-term preservation. This task has already begun under the diligent work of Greg Bruss and Trudy Heath and will continue through the winter and beyond. We are always looking for volunteers, so if you have time and a desire we’d love to hear from you.

Another component of the assessment was to review our Museum building and identify areas for improving not only proper layout but importantly that the structure and ‘mechanicals’ enable safe storage (e.g. lighting, humidity). We have also identified an opportunity to relocate some of our heartier materials (e.g. farm implements) into an external ‘barn’ which we will be exploring as an opportunity during the upcoming year. Of course this all takes some money so we look forward to increasing our membership and hosting several fundraising events in 2021 to help offset incremental costs and continue to fund the scholarships, communications and general upkeep. We’ve set out a preliminary calendar of activities and will continue to provide you updates on our progress. Please help us get the word out when speaking with family and friends while marking your calendar to join us for our varied events.

Fantastic Finds

Through our continuing efforts to identify and catalogue the collection of historical information collected over the years we have found some fantastic and interesting items. Although just beginning, we are encouraged by the unique items that help tell the history and legacy of our town. We encourage visitors to come explore. Some items include:

- 1783 Leather bound handwritten Arithmetic book
- Civil War letters from NH Adj. General about non-Springfield men paid bounty to substitute for Springfield men
- 1800’s collection of handwritten sermons and notes of Rev Howard, minister at Meeting House for many years
- Many old hand-drawn Springfield maps from 18th, 19th and 20th Centuries