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# Springfield Historical Society Fall 2022 Newsletter



## Message to Members from the Board President

What a summer for the Historical Society! Each event brought the community of old and new Society friends together to celebrate Springfield's heritage. A handful of dedicated members braved the excessive July heat to attend the annual meeting. We thanked Trudy for her years of service with a bouquet of flowers and a special puzzle! At their August meeting, the Board agreed that after two really hot summers that the 2023 meeting be held in October!

July closed with crowds enjoying hot dogs, root beer floats and a big bake sale. August brought demonstrations of ice cream and maple syrup making with delicious tastings enjoyed by all.

The last weekend of summer saw Don and Pixie again demonstrating their skills, this time making apple cider. The dry hot summer didn't help the apple crop but the Hills were still able to squeeze out a few gallons. AND the bake sale sold out! What a great way to close out the summer!

In between all these events "The Tool Shed" continued to take shape thanks to all the contributions and hours of volunteer work. So many people stopped to look at it and praised the craftsmanship.

Volunteers contribute so much to the Historical Society and the Springfield community. Thank you all! We hope to see you at the last few special events of 2022 including the annual sip-a-soup lunch and a special talk at Wonderwell. We look forward to welcoming you then and back at the museum and Tool Shed in 2023!

Jim Bednar

## The "Tool Shed" Takes Shape!

Almost every Saturday morning this summer you would find some dedicated volunteers measuring, sawing and nailing, helping put up a beautiful shed! By the time you read this, hopefully all the siding will be done, perhaps the roofing and even the doors! What an achievement! Thank you to all that participated or contributed.



### 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.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR !

**November 5<sup>th</sup>** Sip-A-Soup Lunch

**November 9<sup>th</sup>** Speaker: The History of Wonderwell

**December 3rd** HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

Stop by the Historical Society booth/tables for lots of great Xmas gift ideas and decorations.

**May 27, 2023** Tool Shed Dedication & Grand Opening



## Tool & Artifact Donations Needed for the Tool Shed!

As the Tool Shed space gets completed we are now turning our attention to selection of items to display. The intent of the displays is to highlight Springfield's agricultural heritage. This includes tools used in farming, animal husbandry, maple sugaring, carpentry and timbering. This may include processing equipment such as a butter press.

Items should have a Springfield connection, either something used on a Springfield farm or sugar house or something that exemplifies Springfield's agricultural heritage. Items need to be of materials that will not deteriorate from being stored in a non-heated building.

All donations are gifts to the Springfield Historical Society and become the property of the Historical Society as explained in the donation form that must be completed for each donation.

We hope to have a grand opening of the Tool Shed on Memorial Day weekend 2023. So start scouring your barns, sheds and attics of items that can be put on display to tell Springfield's story! Contact any member of the Board with questions or proposed contributions. Donation forms: <https://historicalspringfieldnh.org/donation-forms/>

## Rounding Out the SHS Collection

We have made considerable progress organizing, structuring, and defining our current collection. We are now reaching out to our friends, neighbors, and members to help us round out and complete various collections. We hope you can help! For this issue, we are asking if anyone has items related to maple sugaring – in particularly buckets, taps, pill boxes of the medicine given to maple trees to get the sap flowing or anything else that tells Springfield's history! Contact a board member at [info@historicalspringfieldnh.org](mailto:info@historicalspringfieldnh.org) if have items, something of interest or ideas for us to pursue!

## Voices of Springfield

The Voices of Springfield continues to add interesting stories about Springfield and its history. Most recently, Springfield resident Leigh Callaway provides us a detailed history and fascinating glimpse into the background of the Meeting House wall clock in a new video "The Heartbeat of the Meeting House" available for viewing on our website. In addition to contacting lifelong residents, we will be reaching out to others in the community who have interesting stories to share. If you are interested in participating, or want to suggest someone, please send an email to: [info@historicalspringfieldnh.org](mailto:info@historicalspringfieldnh.org)

You can view other recent interviews with Jim Bednar about the "Brief History of Springfield NH" and "The Barn Raising" here: <https://historicalspringfieldnh.org/voices-of-springfield/>



## Join Us! Volunteer!

A great way to contribute to the community and get to know more about your community! Join us! It is fun! Contact Jim Bednar ([cunejim@yahoo.com](mailto:cunejim@yahoo.com)) or Pixie Hill ([townclerk@springfieldnh.org](mailto:townclerk@springfieldnh.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

**Rev Lewis Howard**

Taking on the adventure of working on the Town's archives I find some of the most fascinating discoveries happen when people seeking information on some person or topic set me off on a search through the materials we have in archival storage.

Recently there was an inquiry from a man in Dover NH, who was working on a 200th anniversary book for their church. Rev Lewis Howard served as pastor there briefly in the 1840s and he had tracked him to Springfield where Rev Howard had served the Methodist church here in Springfield from 1879-1892 at the end of his long career in the ministry. He delivered his last sermon on his 90th birthday. The historian from Dover was interested if we had any records that might be shared and included in their church history. I remembered a cardboard box of unsorted old papers I had quickly gone through that had been donated by his great granddaughters. As it turned out there was quite an interesting collection of materials that allowed me to begin to inquire into the person after whom the town's meeting house is named. I found an engraved portrait of Rev Howard from the Springfield section of the Sullivan County History written by Charles McDaniel. Adding to that find were notes and sermons, some of which were bound into small handwritten booklets with the date and places that sermon had been delivered. It turned out that several of the sermons were dated to the 1840s and delivered at the Methodist Church in Dover from which the original inquiry had come. I was able to provide photos for their history.

Now I have a new Springfield history project and would appreciate any information that might be hiding in attics or old family records about the various churches, congregations, and ministers who served in Springfield over the years. I have found very little about any of them and obviously their history and how they were a part of people's lives needs to be preserved.

*Greg Bruss*



## Coming Event Nov. 9th: Wonderwell an Early History

**The Early History of Wonderwell and the Family that Built and Loved It**

Come join us on November 9<sup>th</sup> at Wonderwell for a house tour (5:30) and historical presentation (6:30) by Megan Carnarius the great granddaughter of Nell and Joseph Stoddard the original family who built and enjoyed the beautiful property and barn for generations beginning in 1911. The property featured an open meadow with views of surrounding forest and mountains, and a well with great tasting water that never ran dry, and the home became known as Wonderwell. A community of friends and family gathered here and enjoyed fellowship with meals, parties and dancing, mixed with countryside relaxation. They also did poetry reading, created plays and held musical performances - imagine two baby grand pianos playing a duet with music wafting on summer breezes.

Wonderwell was built during a remarkable period of transition – from horse to car, oil lamps to electricity, and mail to telephones. This presentation about Wonderwell highlights the family's time with this property, with historic photos, artifacts, and stories. The house moved into other hands in 1933, and was sold to the new owners with all of the original furnishings, which remained part of the home through the mid '80's. After serving as a summer family home, the house was transformed into a bed and breakfast and then a foster home and was purchased in 2011 on its 100 year anniversary by Natural Dharma who renamed it Wonderwell Mountain Refuge.

Reservations are required, limited to 40 in-person attendees. We are also planning to live-stream on Zoom. If interested in reserving a spot or receiving Zoom information, please email: [info@historicalspringfieldnh.org](mailto:info@historicalspringfieldnh.org).

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



Natural Dharma Fellowship  
WONDERWELL MOUNTAIN REFUGE