



## Springfield Historical Society

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**TO:**

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

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR !



Aug 5\*

**Brass Bands of the Civil War – Music & Discussion:  
“Origins, Functions and Fate”**

Aug 12

**Bake Sale, Hot Dogs and Root Beer Floats**

Aug 16 (Wed.)\*

**Humanities Lecture: “NH One Room School House”**

Aug. 19\*

**12<sup>th</sup> NH Regiment Serenade Band Concert & Spaghetti Dinner**

Aug 26

**Ramble Round the Lake 5K Race**

Sept 2

**Closing – Maple/Apple Bake Sale**

Oct 21\*

**ANNUAL MEETING with “Tyler Road” Music & Potluck Dinner**

Nov 4

**Sip-a-Soup Luncheon**

Dec 2

**Holiday Fair with Rec. Committee**

\*Evening Events

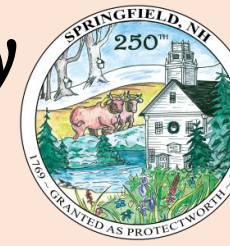
*Museum and Tool Shed open Saturday and Sunday 1-3*

**Buy-A-Brick for Scholarship**

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# Springfield Historical Society Summer 2023 Newsletter



## Message to Members from the Board President

Congratulations to the 250 rubber ducks who made their way safely to the finish line in April. Prizes were awarded thanks to Durgin & Crowell and Sugar River Bank. It was lots of fun for kids of all ages. The fun continued on Opening Day with scholarships awarded, waffles served and the “School Days” exhibit opened. We welcomed several new younger volunteers who enjoyed serving the waffles and all the toppings. Thank you and all the best to the scholarship winners!

June brought the rush to get everything ready for the Grand Opening of the Tool Shed. The Historical Society – and Springfield community – has really transformed that space into something special for the town. The accompanying article describes all the hands that made it possible! Thank you!

As we go to press, bakers are thinking up special Red, White and Blue delicacies for the sale on July 1. And Pixie will have roasted hot dogs to perfection! Yum! July 22 brings more goodies: a demonstration of making goat cheese and ice cream! And, of course, there might be some tasting! Plan on savoring more baked goods and root beer floats on August 12. And to coincide with the “School Days” exhibit, the NH Humanities talk on August 16 (a Wednesday evening) will be on New Hampshire’s One-Room School Houses. At one point Springfield had 14 of them!

A very special event is actually two. On the evening of August 5, the 12th NH Regiment Serenade Band leader will talk about their Civil War band history and demonstrate some of the instruments. On August 19 the 9-member band will perform after a spaghetti dinner. Both promise to be quite special.

The summer wouldn’t be complete without our annual Ramble Round the Lake Race. Register at the Town Office or get forms at our website. Summer ends Sept. 2 with our final bake sale offering maple and apple specialties.

We are so grateful to all the financial and volunteer support. It is truly heart-warming to see the Springfield community’s commitment to preserving its historical heritage. Thank you and we look forward to welcoming you at the museum on weekends (1:00-3:00) and at our many events!

*Jim Bednar*

## Springfield Heritage Fund in Honor of Trudy Heath Launched

The Historical Society received a generous anonymous donation to create a special fund in honor of Trudy Heath, a long-time member of the Board of Directors and constant presence at the museum. The recurring annual donation will support research, documentation and preservation of Springfield’s rich history. In June, the Historical Society approved the first project to establish a computer-based inventory and catalog of the collection.

A parallel donation in memory of Alice Nulsen will finance the purchase of a laptop, external drive and the necessary software for this project. The firm Museum and Collector Resource, LLC has been contracted to help set up the system, provide training and advice on how best to preserve the expanding collection. The training will take place in October. The inventorying will be a long term and continuous project for which we hope to recruit some new volunteers with basic computer skills to help.

The final outcome will be that any visitor will be able to search a particular topic or item and we will be able to find it! Thank you to the donors and thank you Trudy Heath for all you have done for the Historical Society!



### 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.*



## The "Tool Shed" Officially Opens Its Doors!

Torrential rains didn't stop the ribbon cutting on June 17th! And the dedicated Springfield community showed up in numbers – including some new folks which was wonderful! And what a celebration of community participation this whole project has been! If you step back and look around the yard, the garden and inside the barn, it is truly transformational!

Kevin Roberts did a skillful job in laying the pathways and the terrace. The granite steps, funded by the Mascoma Bank Foundation and Springfield Garden Club, make an elegant link to the historic Meeting House. The Garden Club and its supporters brought together a wide variety of bushes and flowers that promise to bring splashes of color throughout the summer. And they were probably the only ones happy about the rain as it helped the transplants take root!

The inside of the Tool Shed was also transformed into a real museum display of Springfield's rich agricultural history – including some fun. The giant pot belly stove from the General Store dominates the entry. The Hills donated a huge Flexible Flyer sled that goes well with Fred Davis' smaller Yankee Clipper sled along with all the tools used to harvest ice from the lake. How much work maple sugaring takes is certainly evident when one views everything from the tree taps to the used shoulder yoke to lug the heavy buckets of sap out of the forest.

The examples of farming tools from days gone by fill a wall and ceiling! And all shapes and sizes of saws show the hard work of forestry.

With the finishing of the storage shed and the new back door and steps, the project is complete – almost. The "Buy a Brick" campaign is in full swing and we hear rumors that prices might go up in August. So hurry to buy your part of Springfield's history!

What an incredible community effort! The president of an adjoining town's historical society came to see what we've been doing. Describing the amount of community involvement and contributions left her in awe. And rightly so! The best part now is the number of new items that keep showing up! Seems every time we'd opened the Shed to work on the displays, someone would drop by to see what was going on. And then seeing all the tools it started the stories of Springfield agriculture. We'd also find more special treasures dropped off like the one-legged milk stool left on the front stoop! Even on opening day, one newcomer showed up carrying a 100-year old scythe that his grandfather of Springfield used.

If you missed the opening, please come see the Tool Shed along with the Museum. Open Saturday and Sundays 1-3. And thank you for all the contributed, volunteered and participated!

## **Buy-A-Brick for Scholarship**

**Help us build the path ... Past to Future**



*We are raising money for our scholarship program by selling engraved memorial bricks. These bricks will pave the way to our new museum annex building – The Tool Shed. With the help of volunteers and generous donors, the Springfield Historical Society recently erected a new museum annex to house our growing collection of agricultural tools and memories. We are creating a commemorative pathway on the museum grounds.*

### **How you can help**

*Purchase a brick to honor yourself, a loved one past or present, a location or event, whatever or whomever you wish to remember. This is a beautiful and everlasting way to become a part of Springfield's history. Each 4"x8" brick is \$40.00.*

**Order on-line at [www.historicalspringfieldnh.org](http://www.historicalspringfieldnh.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)

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

## Dr. Goodhue, Civil War Surgeon

Recently we acquired items connected to Dr Goodhue and his time serving in the Civil War as a naval surgeon. Born in Merrimack, NH in 1838, he graduated from Dartmouth Medical school in 1862 and immediately went into the military. He served on three ships during the remaining duration of the war. Two of the items are the Doctor's daily logbooks of sailors he saw and treated. His last ship participated in the siege of Richmond part of the naval bombardment of the city close to the end of the war. One of the papers obtained was his military pass thru the lines which allowed him to enter Richmond as it was taken. Upon mustering out he married a woman from Springfield and they set up residence on Main Street where Dr Goodhue would serve as the town's doctor into the next century, passing in Springfield in 1911. Obtained at the same time were photographs and tintypes of the type very popular during the war. Nearly every volunteer would pose for one to send home. The tintypes are of particular interest. Although not labelled a close inspection shows the men wearing New Hampshire regimental uniforms. Springfield sent numerous young men to the war and it is easy to imagine these may indeed be amongst the Springfield men who went. Currently there is a small display in the museum of these and other Civil War items donated to the Historical Society.

*Greg Bruss*



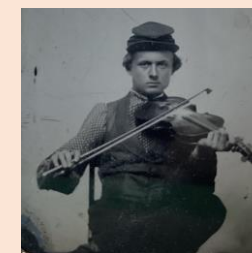
*Dr. David Goodhue in Union Uniform*



*Dr. Goodhue's Medical Box*



*Soldier's Letters to Home*



### Join Us!

As an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, the SHS depends on your participation for its success. Volunteer at the museum; bake for our sales; cook for our dinners; or help put on one of our many events this year! Many hands make light work and it's fun – be a part of our community! We also depend on fundraising to support our activities, preserve the museum collection and fund scholarships. This year our "Buy-a-Brick" campaign will raise funds for scholarships. We also hope you'll become a member if you aren't already. We look forward to seeing you at the museum or at one of our events!

### 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! Contact a board member at [info@historicalspringfieldnh.org](mailto:info@historicalspringfieldnh.org) if have items, something of interest or ideas for us to pursue!

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