



# Springfield Historical Society

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**TO:**

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

## Buy-A-Brick for Scholarship



**Time is Running out!**  
**Order your Brick before the end of the year!**

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



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# Springfield Historical Society Fall 2023 Newsletter



## Message to Members from the Board President

As 2023 comes to a close, it's a good time to take stock of how wonderful and full a year it has been for the Historical Society and the Springfield community. From the rubber duck race in April to the Sip-a-Soup lunch in November, events at the Museum, Tool Shed and Meeting House helped keep Springfield's heritage alive! Food was a theme at lots of events: bake sales, hot dogs, root beer floats, spaghetti dinner and even goat cheese making! In October, the revival of Springfield's potluck dinner tradition brought out a good crowd for the annual meeting followed by great music. And several people told me "this is the best event you have!" as they savored the 12 luscious soups offered at the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Sip-a-Soup. Besides food there was lots of music – the serenade brass band of the 12<sup>th</sup> NH Regiment and the Tyler Road band truly entertained! And of course we welcomed visitors to our Museum and Tool Shed every weekend over the summer.

Two big projects progressed in 2023 – the "Buy a Brick" scholarship fundraiser is in its last months before we order them and make plans for brick laying in 2024. The massive cataloging project was launched with supplies and computer purchased and two days of intense training provided. More on that project in a separate article. Besides all the activities, many were busy helping improve the Museum:

- Jamie Crosby sewed new curtains with blackout lining to better protect the collection from the sun.
- Geri and Roy Monty polished up the country store stove in time for opening day
- Chris Gaherty again displayed his master carpentry, building a storage shed behind the Tool Shed and installing a new back door and new steps to the Museum.
- Roy Monty skillfully painted the new door!
- Kevin Roberts lay beautiful granite steps leading from the Tool Shed to the Meeting House
- The Garden Club planted colorful flowers and shrubs along the split rail fence!

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 and at our events in 2024!

*Jim Bednar*



## Entering the 21st Century to preserve Springfield's Heritage

The Historical Society took a HUGE step in October with the launch of the cataloging project. Financed by the Springfield Heritage Fund and a gift in memory of Alice Nulsen, the Board purchased the necessary supplies, computer and contracted for training. For two intense days, a few volunteers learned how best to preserve, handle and catalog the collection. Each item will be documented, numbered and photographed, a process that takes about 20 minutes per item. The documenting will be done initially on paper and then loaded into the digital file. Utilizing our investment in the *PastPerfect* Museum Software enables us to have a searchable database of all the items, artifacts and documents in our collection. The database will be cross-referenced by source, provenance, subject, type to name a few parameters. So this is a long term project!

But many hands make light work! So we hope you will join us! We have organized the New Hampshire Room in the heated library as a work area for processing as many items as possible over the winter, box by box! There are detailed instructions, a thorough manual and you can call the software company with any questions about the forms or software. You don't have to have computer skills – you can fill out the forms and others can input the information to the computer! A great winter project for anyone that can spare an hour or two! Community service hours for high schoolers!

If interested, we'll be glad to train you! Contact Jim Bednar (603-763-5352; [cunejim@yahoo.com](mailto:cunejim@yahoo.com)) or Gregory Bruss (603-763-4570; [gregorybruss@gmail.com](mailto:gregorybruss@gmail.com))



## **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)

## A Unique Donation!

If you've driven by the Museum recently, you might have noticed a big new object on the lawn – a CANNON! Donated by the Alice Nulsen Trust, it has quite a story.

After World War I, the French government gave several Ivy League colleges a cannon in recognition of the number of college students that fought for France in the war. Dartmouth had its cannon on the green until the 1960s, when anti-war demonstrators would paint graffiti on it. So it was decided to remove it for safe keeping. That's when it made its way to Springfield – to the home of Fairfax Downey, a Yale graduate, who served in the U.S. Army in World War I as a captain of the 12th Field Artillery and as a lieutenant colonel in World War II. He had been doing research at Dartmouth for his military history books and seemed a natural keeper for the cannon – a howitzer like his military unit used.

Upon Fairfax's death in 1990, the cannon was moved to Faraway, home of Colonel Charles and Alice Nulsen on Philbrick Hill. Many stopped to photo the cannon displayed next to a tall wooden flagpole with the American flag, with a range of mountains as a backdrop. Each July 14th, the Nulsen family and friends would gather at the cannon to toast France's Bastille Day. And one year the cannon and flagpole adorned the cover photo of Springfield's annual report. Upon the death of Alice Nulsen in 2022, the family offered the cannon back to Dartmouth which declined the offer. Still in search of a home, the cannon was given to the Historical Society. Town resident Kevin Roberts never thought he would be using his big excavating equipment to move a cannon but he safely delivered it to the Museum. Come see a unique part of Springfield history!



### **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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