

Monthly Town Medal Column SPRINGFIELD, NH

BY ROBERT F. (BOB) FRITSCH, NCC DIRECTOR, FRCNA, FONA, KStE-USA (Copyright ©2024 by Robert F. Fritsch)

The Sullivan County town of Springfield lies in the Lake Sunapee region.¹ It was granted in 1769 as Protectworth by Colonial Governor John Wentworth to his brother-in-law, architect John Fisher.² Unfortunately for them, they remained loyal to the British crown after the *Revolution* and the town was taken by the new nation. In 1780, current residents asked for ownership and the town was incorporated as Springfield in 1794. The town is a quiet residential community dependent on tourism for its revenue. Schooling for all grades in via SAU65 Kearsarge Regional, comprising Bradford, Newbury, New London, Springfield, Sutton, Warner, Wilmot. Nearby colleges include Colby-Sawyer, Dartmouth and Magdalen. The 2022 population estimate was 1,307 residents, making it #174 in the state.

There are no Highway Historical Markers within town limits; however, there are some notable people of Springfield: author, biographer, and military historian Fairfax Downey (1893-1990); US Army General (father-in-law of David Petraeus) William Allen Knowlton (1920-2008); US Army General and former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency David Petraeus (born 1952); and Ohio State Representative (1867-1869) Jeriah Swetland (1817-1906). After attending college (Yale), Downey served in the U.S. Army as a Captain of the 12th Field Artillery in the *First World War*. He was a recipient of the Silver Star for gallantry during the *Battle of Belleau Wood*. During the Second World War he served in North Africa, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel.



Official photo of David Petraeus, 4th Director of the Central Intelligence Agency September 6, 2011 – November 9, 2012; and David and Stephen Petraeus in 2010 in Afghanistan. [Both Public Domain images.]

The 1969 town bicentennial was planned as early as 1966 but did not do much until 1967 when a committee was appointed with a 1968 budget of \$100 and with an Appropriation Recommendation by the Budget Committee of \$2,000 to be in the 1969 budget; and \$2,100 was refunded by the committee in 1969 after the bicentennial celebrations ended. The town made extensive repairs and improvements to public buildings and roadways, installed a new flagpole at the library, and painted the town hall a gleaming white. The Bicentennial Queen (age 50+) and Princess (age 8 and younger) were elected by the residents to preside over the celebration. Programs were mailed to all former residents to invite them to join the festivities. The July celebration was called the greatest event in the town's history.



The medal was made by V.H. Blackinton of Attleboro Falls MA.³ The company sent pictures of the medal plus a write-up to the Publicity Committee who shotgunned it to several prominent newspapers, such as *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Coin World* and local papers. Serialized Sterling medals numbered 200 (\$10 each) and plain edge Bronze counted 600 at \$2.50 each. The initial bronze order was 500 pieces, but since the entire inventory was sold before the celebration, an additional 100 bronze were made. The first 10 Sterling medals were sold at public auction but no report on the hammer price. The 200th silver medal, plates and dies were framed and displayed in the town offices. Sales totaled \$3,884.24. There were coin folders and envelopes also purchased but not included in this figure.

The obverse of the 38mm medal shows a town scene with a stagecoach drawn by six horses in front of a church with trees in the background; SPRINGFIELD NEW HAMPSHIRE / BICENTENNIAL - 1969 around the edge and LIVE FREE OR DIE on a ribbon below the coach. The reverse shows two oxen pulling a plow with GRANTED AS PROTECTWORTH / 1969 around.



In 2019 Springfield celebrated its 250th, but although souvenirs were issued, they did not include a medal. The star revenue generator was shirts with this logo. →



Budget of The Town of Springfield, N. H.

Expenditures	Appropriations	Actual	Appropriations
	Previous Year 1968	Expenditures 1968	Recommended by Budget Committee 1969
GENERAL GOVERNMENT:			
Town Officers' Salaries	\$ 1,645.00	\$ 1,645.00	\$ 2,095.00
Town Officers' Expenses	60.00	1,260.00	1,300.00
Electric and Reproduction Expenses	200.00	350.00	100.00
Expenses Town Hall and Other			
Town Bldg.	2,200.00	2,445.78	2,000.00
Telephone, Rent and Social Security	500.00	539.37	900.00
PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY:			
Police Department	300.00	312.07	100.00
Fire Department	1,200.00	1,300.00	1,300.00
Mash Excess - Waste Rent & Care of Trees	49.00	49.00	49.00
Insurance	1,000.00	796.23	1,000.00
Damages and Legal Expenses	200.00		200.00
City Denture	100.00		100.00
HEALTH:			
Health Department, including Hospital	300.00	300.00	300.00
Vital Statistics	10.00	10.50	10.00
Maintenence Hydrants	100.00	125.00	125.00
Town Dump & Garbage Removal	300.00	247.50	300.00
HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES:			
Town Maintenance Services	4,300.00	4,849.41	4,300.00
Town Maintenance - Winter	4,300.00	51,313.51	4,000.00
Street Lighting	450.00	462.30	475.00
Central Expenses of Highway	4,000.00	6,293.30	4,500.00
Town Road Aid	696.94	696.94	700.00
LIBRARIES	300.00	300.00	300.00
PUBLIC WELFARE:			
Town Poor	1,000.00	111.91	1,000.00
Old Age Assistance	500.00	105.10	1,000.00
PATRIOTIC PURPOSES:			
Memorial Day & Veterans' Association	100.00	100.00	100.00
RECREATION:			
Beach	50.00	32.00	50.00
PUBLIC SERVICE ENTERPRISES:			
Water	100.00	100.00	2,000.00
Commuter	400.00	399.86	400.00
Advertising & Regional Attr.	25.00		25.00
INTEREST:			
On Temporary Loans	300.00	270.00	300.00
On Bonded Debt	272.50	27.30	272.50



Bicentennial Commemorative Medals
Barbara Roney

I have been asked to write a brief report about the Commemorative Medal and the sale of them. In order to be brief I am going to list what I feel are the 10 most interesting facts.

- 200 Silver Coins were struck; they were numbered 1-200, with the number minted on the coin. 500 Bronze coins were minted in the first striking. More Bronze coins could be minted, but never more than 200 silver coins.
- The coins were minted by the Blackington Co., in Attleboro, Mass.
- The first ten silver medals were sold at public auction. The Town was given the 200th coin along with the dies and will be displayed at the town office.
- Number 50 was given to Justin Nichols to express thanks for his 50 years of faithful service to the Town. Number 54 was given to Seely Philbrick for his 54 years of service to the Town.
- The first order for a silver coin was received from Arnold Putney. Arnold placed his order before we were even sure a medal would be struck and long before we knew what it would look like.
- The youngest person to purchase a silver medal was Harold (Buzzy) Roney.
- We received orders from many states; the farthest was Alaska.
- Before the three day celebration all the coins had been sold so it was decided to have 100 more bronze coins minted. Mr. Arthur Barrowman was kind enough to bring the coins to us from Attleboro, Mass. Mr. Barrowman is one of our summer residents.
- Many people when placing an order for coins expressed how much they liked our having the State Motto, "Live Free or Die," on the coins and some said that was the reason they were buying them.
- After the medals had been mailed I received many phone calls and letters telling how very pleased these people were with their medals.

In closing I would like to thank all those who helped me especially Mrs. Lucille Wheeler and Mr. W.G. Mathewson, for their kind help with the mailing of the medals. Also Mr. Arthur Barrowman for transporting the last 100 Bronze medals.

"TREASURER'S MESSAGE"

The financial report, I believe, speaks very well as to the amount of work that was put into our Bicentennial celebration by everyone concerned.

The \$773.39 balance in the checking account has been put into a savings account, with Joe Davis, Fred Davis & Cheryl Patten as trustees.

I would like to thank all the committee for the cooperation they gave me; it was indeed a pleasure working with you.

And I would like to say a well deserved thank you to Terry Davis for her effort in having the iron rails installed at the entrance of our Town Hall.

Carl F. Lewis
Treasurer

BICENTENNIAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Carl F. Lewis, Treasurer

RECEIPTS	\$9,049.48
DISBURSEMENTS	8,276.09
BANK BALANCE	\$773.39

DETAILS

RECEIPTS		
Town appropriations	\$2,100.00	
Fishing Derby	41.35	
Card Party	23.50	
History Books and Maps	1,518.59	
Commemorative Coins	3,884.24	
Donations	285.00	
Dance	289.15	
Auction	823.85	
Flares	83.80	\$9,049.48
DISBURSEMENTS		
Telephone calls	\$ 21.45	
Postage	96.63	
Fishing Derby, prizes	10.55	
11 Lucite wedges	\$ 24.97	
600 Bronze coins	504.00	
200 Silver coins	920.00	
Coin dies	635.00	
U.P.S.	7.52	2,091.49
Argus-Champion		
Rubber stamps, display ad, newspapers	16.05	

Country Press		
700 History Books	\$1,200.00	
1000 Maps	110.00	
250 Mailing tubes	37.50	
500 Plain Envelopes	10.00	1,387.50
800 Coin Folders	35.00	
500 Coin Envelopes	8.00	
1000 Schedules	25.00	
500 Dance Tickets	8.50	
300 Napkins	15.00	91.50
J.S. Wesley & Sons		
Leather Binding 2 History Books	20.00	
American Legion - Flag	9.00	
Auxiliary - Forge		
Iron Railings, Town Hall	200.00	
Seymour Trophy	21.76	
Trophies for events		
Van Aaron Fabrics	82.00	
Bunting Material	141.00	
McCillis & Elmdridge - Insurance		
Harringtons	10.00	
Cheryl Patten - Expenses	40.00	
Carl Lewis		
Expenses	\$ 3.50	
Keys for new T.H. Lock	2.25	5.75
Leo Dufoed - Moving	10.00	
Raymond Beals		
Material & labor, installing light at flag pole	33.00	
Betty Cullins		
Cleaning expense, bunting	23.50	
Frederick Johnson		
Town Plans, Town Hall	20.00	
Martin Hardware, 4 signs	2.00	
The Garden Shop - 4 signs for Queen	9.00	
Intestate Fireworks	500.00	
Cole & Roney - Lumber for: firework setups	4.40	
Lions Club - Flares	25.00	
Ronald Ross		
Fencing	74.58	
Grass Seed	4.45	
Supplies	8.18	87.21
Police		
Ken Wheeler	69.75	
Dick Paquette	9.30	
Norman Colby	23.63	
Walt Trybulski	36.25	
Emer Derby	84.08	
Al Trybulski	69.75	294.46
Glen Mathewson, Supplies	35.32	
Terry Davis - Plates for Queen & Princess	60.00	
David Roney - Field Day Expenses	60.00	

Parade

Avcngers Drum & Bugle	150.00
Claremont American Band	125.00
Sheriff's Posse	100.00
Profile Club	10.00
Cash Prizes	50.00
J. & M. Davis - expenses	15.77
Total Receipts	59,049.48

Advance Cash for Sales	60.00
Ken Burton - Auctioneer	100.00
Dance Band	60.00
Church, from Donation	50.00
K.Kane - Coin over-order, refund	52.50
Lester Bates over-order refund	10.00
Helen Byrne over-order, refund	2.50
Repay Town	2,100.00
Bank Charges	1.80
Mildred Davis, Audit and Report	10.00
	\$8,276.14
Less Bookkeeping Error	.05
Total Expenses	\$8,276.09
Bank Balance	773.39
	\$9,049.48

ANTICIPATED INCOME

115 History books	\$287.50
47 Map Sets	23.50
93 Pictures of coins	46.50
Coins	-0-
	\$357.50

Audited November 25, 1969

Mildred C. Davis, Auditor

Footnotes:

- Lake Sunapee Region is the watershed area spread throughout six towns - Newbury, Springfield, Sunapee, New London, Sutton and Goshen.
- John Fisher (d. 1805) was an architect and the collector of customs at Salem, Massachusetts; a Loyalist, he was married to Governor Wentworth's sister Anna.
- Page 52 of the BICENTENNIAL REVIEW 1969 ANNUAL REPORT, SPRINGFIELD, New Hampshire.

References:

- Heath, Robert R. and Allen, Sam (ed.). *Commemorative Medals of New Hampshire Cities and Towns*, 9th Edition. Dover, NH: self-published, 2014.
- 1968 ANNUAL REPORT BICENTENNIAL ISSUE, SPRINGFIELD, New Hampshire.
- BICENTENNIAL REVIEW 1969 ANNUAL REPORT, SPRINGFIELD, New Hampshire.
- <https://www.springfieldnh.org/>
- <https://www.nhes.nh.gov/elmi/products/cp/profiles-htm/springfield.htm>

