



Springfield Historical Society

PO Box 6
Springfield, NH 03284

Jim Bednar, President
Pixie Hill, Vice President & Secretary
Gregory Bruss, Historian
Angela MacCreighton, Treasurer
Poul Heilmann, Communications
Alison Patten
Nyla Waddell
Melissa Patten

TO:

Volunteer!

www.historicalspringfieldnh.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR !



- May 24** Museum's Opening Day, Scholarship Awards, Waffles 1:00
- June 14** Talk: A Soldier's Mother Tells Her Story of her son, a Union Army soldier killed at Gettysburg, Meeting House, 7:00
- July 5** Celebrating the Red, White & Blue: Bake Sale, Hot Dogs and Root Beer Floats
- July 19** Ramble Round the Lake 9:00
Old Home Day, Forever Locked Display 10-4:00
- Aug 2** Talk: Corbin's Animal Garden, 22,000-acre wildlife game preserve, Meeting House 7:00
- Aug 27** Talk: Early Life of Native Americans - Wonderwell
- Aug 30** Springfield's Harvest: Bake Sale and Museum Closing
- Oct 4** ANNUAL MEETING & Potluck Dinner

www.historicalspringfieldnh.org



Springfield Historical Society Spring 2025 Newsletter

Message to Members from the Board President



The Historical Society Board of Directors has been busy throughout the winter continuing to organize the collection, complete seven oral history films of Springfield veterans and plan events for summer 2025. While we plan to hold many of our annual events, we've cut back on the number of events, with more emphasis on one of our primary missions – the preservation of Springfield's heritage. There are three focal points: cataloging the collection, oral histories and creating a reference guide for the new brick patio. Cataloging is a big challenge. In May, volunteers will be trained in the process and then can schedule the best times for themselves to catalog artifacts. We hope more will volunteer. After all, what's the point of having a collection if you can't find what you want to learn about Springfield?

The oral history project filmed the stories of seven Springfield veterans, which can be viewed on the webpage historicalspringfieldnh.org. Thanks to another anonymous donation, more veterans will be filmed in 2025. If you or someone you know is a Springfield veteran, please contact us so we can capture their story.

The third project is making sure that future generations know the meaning of the 200 bricks making the patio in front of the Tool Shed. We plan to create cross-referenced guide to the bricks telling the story behind the engraving on each brick. Each brick adds to the story of Springfield!

The summer kicked off with the annual Rubber Ducky Race on soggy April 26 at Twin Lake Villa, where 250 ducks bobbed down the stream, with the winning ducks awarded cash prizes donated by Durgin and Crowell. On Memorial Day weekend, the museum opens for the summer with the awarding of scholarships, celebrated with delicious waffles and toppings.

History comes to life June 14 when Betsy Phelps, mother of a Union soldier killed at Gettysburg, tells her story. On August 2 a second speaker describes the creation of Corbin's Animal Reserve, a 22,000-acre wildlife game preserve neighboring Springfield.

The Old Home Day weekend – July 18-20 -- includes the Ramble Round the Lake 5K Race. The Historical Society also brings back the Forever Locked Moose display of the two bull moose found interlocked in Gile Forest.

Bake Sales, Root Beer Floats, hot dogs and more planned throughout the summer – watch for flyers, ads and updates on the website. The Historical Society depends on volunteers to help run its program and keep the museum open. Based on the summer plans there's a wide variety of opportunities to support the Springfield community and have fun. More information at historicalspringfieldnh.org.

Jim Bednar

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.

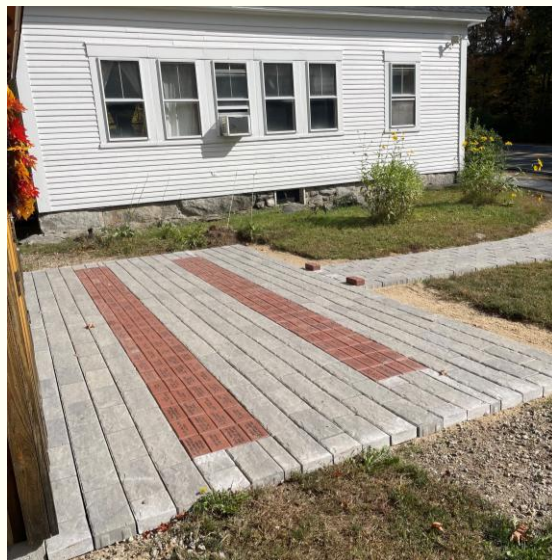
Historical Society Museum Gets Organized!

Have you ever visited the Historical Society's Museum looking for specific information about a family or a house and not been able to find it? The museum is full of documents and artifacts but not always the easiest to find what you want. But with the ongoing cataloging project, it will become easier. And more help is coming! This month eleven volunteers will be trained in using the computer program Past Perfect to catalog the collection. Thanks to two anonymous donations and some funds from the Historical Society itself, the contractor MCR (Museum & Collector Resource) will conduct two days of hands-on training, where the volunteers will learn how best to handle, label and document each item in the museum. Once they are trained, each volunteer can make their own schedule of when and how much they will be cataloging. The Historical Society's Board of Directors made a conscious decision to reduce the number of activities over the summer in order to increase focus on this cataloging project. Preserving the collection that has so many interesting and valuable items telling Springfield's story is a primary mandate of the Historical Society. There are thousands of items to be cataloged and we continue to get additional donations to add to the collection. So, this will be a long-term project. Thank you to those that made this project possible --- the financial donors and the incredible volunteers!

Rubber Ducky Race 2025



Stepping Down Springfield's Historical Path



Last year, two hundred engraved bricks were beautifully ensconced in the terrace in front of the Historical Society's Tool Shed. Each brick tells a unique story as told by the donor. But future generations might not know their meaning. In order not to lose this valuable part of Springfield's heritage, the Historical Society will be creating a cross-referenced guide to help find the different bricks and document their meaning. To those that donated a brick, please reply to upcoming emails asking for information about the engraving. And do visit the terrace!

www.historicalspringfieldnh.org

Honoring Springfield's Veterans

Springfield is home to a large number of men and women who have served our country. Serving in the military goes far back into Springfield's history. Thanks to a generous donation, the Historical Society has been able to capture some of their stories as part of its ongoing oral history project.

Take a look at the tab "Voices of Springfield" on the Historical Society's website historicalspringfieldnh.org. The first film introduces the project documenting the number of memorials around the town honoring veterans. And then seven veterans tell their diverse stories of service. Hear them talk of tracking Soviet subs in the North Sea, developing telescopes to track sunspots, parachuting into Beirut and much more. Please take a moment before Memorial Day and make sure to thank our veterans for their service!

The anonymous donor has again made it possible to film more veterans this year. If you or someone you know is a Springfield veteran, please contact Jim Bednar at cunejim@yahoo.com so we can capture their story.



Bill Sullivan dodged
Scud missiles in Israel



Denny George repaired
giant fuel tanker planes



Richard Hendl
helped track sunspots



Howard Anderson
repaired radios in Korea



Fred Davis jumped
out of planes



Melissa Patten
Medical assistant



Pilot Leigh Callaway
tracked Soviet subs

In Memoriam

Springfield lost two special people over the winter. And both were strong supporters of the Historical Society.

Janet Booker helped start the first kindergarten program in Springfield and was a teacher to the town's children for more than ten years. Janet also became very involved with the Town of Springfield and served as the Chairman of the Planning Board and was a contributing member of the Springfield Historical Society.

Ed Belfield was a long-time resident of Springfield with a cottage on Lake Kroleemook. He could routinely be seen walking the 3-mile loop around the lake picking up trash, almost daily, into his late 80s. He also loved fishing on the lake from his boyhood wooden canoe. He volunteered often at the Historical Society and continued to support the society after moving to Florida.

The Historical Society will miss these two special people.