



## Springfield Historical Society

PO Box 6  
Springfield, NH 03284

Jim Bednar, President  
Pixie Hill, Vice President  
Gregory Bruss, Historian  
Angela MacCreighton, Treasurer  
Debra Hildebrand, Secretary  
Alison Patten  
Dan Hildebrand  
Melissa Patten

**Volunteer!**

**TO:**

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

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

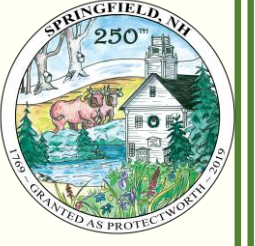


- May 23** Museum's Opening Day, Scholarship Awards, Waffles 1-3
- May 30** Gravestone Cleaning Party & Pulled Pork Lunch
- June 13** Ken Burn's film segment from "American Revolution", 6:00
- June 28** Spaghetti Supper & Ramblin Rick's Songs and Stories, 5:00
- July 4** Celebrating the Red, White & Blue: Bake Sale, Hot Dogs and Root Beer Floats
- July 11** Ramble Round the Lake 9:00, Summer Festival, Forever Locked Display 10-4
- July 25** NH First Regiment, Revolutionary War Encampment 10-4
- Aug 9** Sundaes on Sunday and Summer Bake Sale 12-3
- Sept 5** Springfield's Harvest: Bake Sale and Museum Closing
- Oct 17** *Punch on the Patio, Potluck Dinner & ANNUAL MEETING*
- Nov 1** Sip-a-Soup, Pie Sale & Puzzle Swap

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



# Springfield Historical Society Spring 2026 Newsletter



## Message to Members from the Board President

The Historical Society Board of Directors and volunteers have been busy throughout the winter continuing to organize the collection, work on oral history films of Springfield and plan events for summer 2026. We also welcomed Dan and Debra Hildebrand to the Board.

As you'll read in the accompanying article, the cataloging of our collection is progressing thanks to some dedicated volunteers. A lot of items are now fully cataloged including all the items in the Tool Shed. More to do, but a big thanks to the volunteers for getting so much done already.

The oral history project continued with the premiere showing of "Growing up in Springfield" being enjoyed at the annual meeting and potluck supper. And "Going to School in Springfield" will have four long-time residents tell the story of going to Springfield's one-room schoolhouse – now our museum.

A new project is true to our mandate in preserving Springfield's cultural heritage. Already many have joined to "Adopt-an-Artifact" as described in an accompanying article. Several items are already being preserved and restored. Special announcements will be made as these items return to be displayed while well protected. Please drop in to see them this summer.

One other project I would like to highlight is actually led by the town's Cemetery Commission in restoring the gravestones. What better way to recognize Memorial Day than to spend a few hours helping clean and straighten these special chapters of Springfield's history. And you'll get a free pulled pork lunch for your labor! What a bargain!

Lots of other fun events and activities planned throughout the year. Two events have already taken place – an interesting talk on the true story of Benedict Arnold and the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Rubber Ducky Race on a gorgeous spring day at Twin Lake Villa, where the ducks bobbed down the stream, with the winning ducks awarded cash prizes donated by Sugar River Bank. Please mark your calendar for events you don't want to miss from bake sales, to Revolutionary War reenactment to the Sip-a-Soup luncheon with its puzzle swap.

You have heard me often say that Springfield runs on volunteers. It is so true and many residents have stepped up in so many ways. In February I hosted a meeting of the 14 volunteer organizations contributing to Springfield's being so special. It took two hours to go over all the things planned for this year! So there really is something for everyone. Join us and you'll enjoy being a part of the Springfield story.

Watch for flyers, ads and updates on the website. More information at [historicalspringfieldnh.org](http://historicalspringfieldnh.org).

### 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.*

## Celebrating America's 250th

In April, George Morrison's telling Benedict Arnold's true story opened this year of special events. Stories of Springfield will continue the week after Memorial Day as volunteers work with a professional to unveil the town's history as told by its gravestones. In June a very special showing of a segment of Ken Burns' film "American Revolution" will highlight the important role of service in our country's history with a discussion to follow. On Sunday, June 28, American songs and stories will fill the Meeting House as Ramblin Rick returns to Springfield. More fun continues in July with the encampment of NH's First Regiment demonstrating life for the Revolutionary War military and families. There will be lots of demonstrations with musters, musket shooting and of course the boom of the cannon throughout the day – Saturday July 25.

And any American celebration has to have food! And we have lots planned for throughout the summer and into November! Waffles, pulled pork, hot dogs, root beer floats, three bake sales, spaghetti and potluck dinners and of course the Sip-a-Soup luncheon. A special addition is "Sundaes on Sunday" on the Tool Shed's patio on August 9<sup>th</sup>.

So mark your calendars and come with an empty stomach to enjoy your town's history!

## Rubber Ducky Race 2026



**A great sunny day brought out a crowd to watch the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Rubber Ducky Race. The Fidler's grandchildren helped send the duckies on their way. And away they went!**



## Preserving the Past for the Future

The Springfield Historical Society  
In honor of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United States  
Preserve the Past for the Future  
**Adopt an Artifact**

Choose from the list below where you would like your donation to be applied in helping the Springfield Historical Society preserve and protect the town's rich heritage. Partial contributions are welcome too! If final costs are lower than the estimate, surplus funds will be applied to other artifacts needing care. If someone beats you to your selected artifact, we will work with you to adopt another artifact.

**Sanborn map.** Professional restoration and preservation of the map marking land owners of the early 1800s. *Estimated cost: \$700*

**Arithmetic work book.** Restoration and preservation of badly damaged leather-bound workbook from late 1700s. *Estimated cost: \$3,000*

**Letter signed by Calvin Coolidge.** Preservation and acid free framing of letter from Calvin Coolidge to Springfield resident Dr. Morgan. *Estimated cost: \$300*

**Springfield Baseball Uniform.** Acid free stand. *Estimated cost: \$1,200*

**Reframe Springfield postmarks.** A collection of envelopes postmarked from the different towns of Springfield in the USA. Acid-free backing, matting, and reframing. *Estimated cost: \$600*

**Oral History recordings.** Convert three cassettes to digital. *Estimated cost: \$20 each or \$60 for 3.*

**Family genealogies.** Genealogies of Heath, Severance, Hardy, and Galby in 4 floppy disks to convert to digital. *Estimated cost: \$20 each or \$80 for 4.*

**Films from 1927-1939.** Convert eight 16 mm films to digital. *Estimated cost: \$30 each or \$240 for all 8.*

**Reframe photos.** Photos of Springfield (about 50) on display in museum to be reframed with acid-free matting and backing. *Estimated cost: \$50 each, \$2,500 for 50.*

**Restoring gravestones.** Preserve the town's history told by its gravestones (some dating back to the 1700s). Professionally restore and clean. *Estimated cost: \$50 each*

**Acid-free storage materials.** When paper or cloth materials are not on display, they should be stored in acid-free boxes, with acid-free tissues or file folders. *Estimated cost: from \$50 to \$200 per item.*

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Total amount of donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States, the Historical Society is asking people to "Adopt an Artifact", helping us to restore and preserve some of the Museum's most treasured possessions. Already the Sanborn map is being treated – a 3-month process, removing it from the damaging denim backing. And a leather-bound arithmetic work book from the late 1700s is going through a similar delicate process. Oral histories stored on cassettes and 16 mm films are being digitalized. The thumbtacks holding the letters postmarked from 14 Springfields are being replaced by an acid-free mounting. And gravestones that tell Springfield's history are going to be cleaned and straightened. Become a part of this fun project, pick up a form at the Town Office, Post Office or on our website. And come by the museum to see the results!

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

## Going to School in Springfield and more!

For those that enjoyed the oral history film "Growing Up in Springfield," you are going to really enjoy the next film which is just finished. The film captures the stories of four Springfield women, who describe the adventures of going to school at Center School, what is now the Historical Society Museum. There's also a special story of the moving day to the new school, the Memorial Building, which is now the Town Office and Library. And memories of teachers, playing, and much more. Plans are to air the 20-minute film at the Historical Society's Annual Meeting and potluck dinner on October 17. Sure to be a special evening.

The film will also be posted on the Historical Society's website [historicalspringfieldnh.org](http://historicalspringfieldnh.org) at the tab "Voices of Springfield".

An anonymous donor has again made it possible to film more oral histories this year, including more veterans. If you or someone you know is a Springfield veteran, or if you have a suggestion of other oral histories we should consider, please contact Jim Bednar at [cunejim@yahoo.com](mailto:cunejim@yahoo.com)

From left to right:  
Mildred Beales-Boyd  
Janet Roberts  
Sue Cuttings  
Cynthia Anderson



## Discovering Hidden Gems

Cold weather and a closed museum doesn't mean cataloging stops! Winter months mean we move to the warm library and the volunteer work continues. Thankfully, we're able to use the "New Hampshire Room" where, fittingly, we focus on cataloging the books from the museum. This means learning a new form and gathering slightly different information than with the objects. Volunteers gather the information for the paper form, enter it into the museum program on the computer, and add a picture or two. Each book takes roughly an hour.

Handling these books is a real treasure to a kid who grew up in the library valuing old books. It's amazing that these volumes have survived in decent condition thanks to preservation efforts of many who valued them. Then to open them ever-so-gently to find the hidden gems inside. Some books are old library books from the 1900s, and others are classroom textbooks from the 1800s. Some have names in them I recognize from my school years, and some have family names familiar from town but long since gone. Did they hold that book as if a treasure containing an adventure to exotic lands? Did they hold the book knowing it represented homework that would keep them from playing outdoors with their friends? Or did it put off their household chores until after dark?

Sometimes there are other hidden gems tucked inside the book, like a newspaper clipping relevant to the topic of the book. Others have handwritten (pen & ink cursive) notes from lectures they attended. Sometimes there are children's drawings, a column of figures, or a brief poem on the end pages. You never know what you might find!

Cataloging the museum books not only creates a record of the items but also makes a searchable record. If you are looking into your Springfield family history, your family member's name might pop up if you search for them in the museum catalog. Drop by the museum this summer! Or join us as we continue to discover hidden gems!

Cylyn Reviczky, cataloging volunteer