Springfield Historical Society News
Dedicated to Preserving Springfield, NH's History since 1984
July 2008

The President's Message:

The annual meeting and program of the Springfield Historical Society will be
Thursday, July 10th, 7:00pm at the Springfield Town Hall. Everyone is welcome.
This is a special meeting because we are recognizing the years of service given to
the society by Muriel Tinkham and Bob Nulsen. There will be a brief business
meeting for the annual election of officers and drawing of the raffle for the 16' x 20'
oil painting of Lake Kolelemook. The tickets are $2.00 or 6 for $10.00. The funds
go to the Springfield Historical Society Scholarship Fund. If you still have your
tickets, mail them in, or you can purchase them at the town office, and at the
beginning of the meeting on the 10th.

Program: The Sugar River Band with the Orzechowski Family will entertain
us with traditional fiddle music from New England and fiddles, piano and
accordion. Jane has been playing the fiddle since she was a child playing for the
Swedish Folk Dance Club of Boston and New England Folk Festival every year. Her
daughter Sophie, 17 and her son Neil, 14, plays fiddle, piano, and accordion. They
are very popular in the area. Thank you, Donna Denniston for making the
arrangements.

After the program, there will be an open house at the museum building to the
right of the town hall. Refreshments will be served. Please join us there.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: The Nominating Committee comprised of chair
Janet Booker, Trudy Heath and Janet LaBrecht have submitted the officers to be
ominated for 2008-2009. The election will take place at the beginning of the July
10th meeting.

President: Patsy Heath Caswell, 1 yr; Vice President: ___________ Treasurer:
Brandi Denniston, finishing the 3rd year of term ending in 2009; Secretary: Donna
Denniston, 1 yr; Board: 3 year term: Janet Booker finishing 3rd year of Muriel
Tinkham's term in 2009; 2yr term: Cyndy Lawson finishing two year term of Bob
Nulsen; 1 yr term: Cynthia Bruss. WE STILL NEED A VICE PRESIDENT BADLY!

Thank you, Janet and your committee for the work you put into finding
members to serve as officers and on the board. It is good to have new faces even
though our past members will be missed.

Any active member wishing to be nominated as a candidate must do so
prior to the annual meeting. Article XI, Sec. 2 of the SHS Constitution and By-Laws.
MEMBERSHIP: The Springfield Historical Society year is July 1st to June 30th. Dues will be collected from July 1st to December 31st. Please make sure you have paid your dues by then if you wish to retain your membership. We would hate to lose you. The membership form is at the end of the newsletter.

A Special Thank You!

A special thank you goes to Muriel Tinkham and Bob Nulsen who have kept life in the historical society with their determination and interest. Muriel knows the history of Springfield better than most natives. She was the first curator of the museum and built it up in many ways, such as the fabulous collection of pictures. Before one knew what was happening, Bob Nulsen would have you volunteer to hold office! He was a one man nominating committee before we had an official nominating committee! He snagged me and for several years we alternated president and vice president every other year. Then along came Don Garlock who Bob convinced to help him with programs for one year...Before Don knew it, he was Vice President for five years! Bob also organized the publication of Pictorial History of Springfield, and Stories of Springfield.

Muriel and Bob have been active members and the heart and soul of the historical society. I hope that we will be a be able to keep up the good work they and others such as Robert Moore, Dan Daily, and Betty Broadley began twenty four years ago. Their interest and hard work for Springfield is appreciated.

Newer Members to Thank for a Job Well Done

Ella Carpenter Pickering and Eleanor Carpenter Farr (natives, but Ella lives in Blackstone, MA, and Ellie in Etna, NH) read about my request for someone to do refreshments for the April meeting and volunteered to do so. The refreshments were delish!

Thank you also goes to Charlie Pinkerton who has made five plaques for the historical society. The large ones will be for Memorial Donations, Recognition of Outstanding Service, and Scholarship Awards. Two small plaques will identify the two portraits in our collection.

Scholarship Committee

Thank you to the Scholarship Committee, Trudy Heath (Chair), Donna Denniston, and Julie Slack for the time and effort you put into choosing our scholarship students for 2008-2009. The awards will be given at high school graduation by the time you receive this newsletter. Congratulations and best wishes to the deserving students. Thank you to all of our members and friends who made the scholarships possible. We could not have done it without YOU!

Urusla Sahagen "Sage" Mills $1000.00
Katlyn Laurie, $700.00
Stacia Aryn Richardson, $700.00
Matthew C. Raymond, $500.00
Joshua Raymond $500.00

Volunteers

You are always needed! I will be working on the survey of gravestones at Old Pleasant View Cemetery the second week of July for a couple of hours beginning at noon. It will be one or two days weather and time permitting. I could use some help! It is not difficult work. You can e-mail me at caswellheath@msn.com. Julie Slack, curator of the museum, can always use some help with work in the museum entering data, filing forms and scanning photographs for example. You can contact Julie at jorroslack@gmail.com or 763-8909.
The 18th Israel Clifford Mystery Solved in the 21st Century

In the December 2005 newsletter I wrote “Springfield’s own History Mystery” concerning Israel Clifford. The main issue was which Israel Clifford was in the Revolutionary War, father or son? Charles McDaniel claimed that Israel Clifford was a Revolutionary War Vet buried in Springfield. I had read an article in The New England Historical Register entitled “Identification of Israel Clifford of Protectworth (Springfield, NH), 1790” by Andrew Langlois and Alan R Wambold. These two authors had met over the internet while working separately on Cliffords and the movement of the Clifford family to the north which was then the frontier in New England after the French and Indian War. They combined their information and published the article mentioned above. Since then in 2007, they have found additional information that solved the Springfield mystery of the two Israel Cliffords, and additional information about Judith Clifford.

To set the record straight, it was the brothers Israel Clifford Jr. and Tristam who were the soldiers in the Revolution, not Israel Clifford the father. The reason for the confused information was that the northern part of New England was a frontier and records were scarce. It was more important to worry about food and shelter than keeping records. Israel Clifford, Jr. NOT his father, Ebenezer Loverin, and Timothy Quimby were the first settlers in Protectworth in 1772. Lot #5 was granted to Israel Jr. in November 1779 “in consideration of becoming a settler there”. Israel Junior’s wife, Judith, was granted 50 acres by the Portsmouth trustees for being the first woman settler in Protectworth.

Of particular interest to me was that Judith was a Severance born 25 March, 1756. She descended from the third generation Ephraim Severance and his son Ephraim fourth generation, while my grandmother Clara Severance Heath descended from third generation Ephraim Severance, and his son Benjamin fourth generation.

During the Revolutionary War, Israel Clifford Jr served with Capt. Henry Dearborn’s company. In 1776, Israel and Tristam Clifford received money for traveling 140 miles from Deerfield, NH where they served with Col John Waldon’s Regiment. Sometime between 8 August 1771, and 30 October 1777, Tristam Clifford served in Capt. Nathan Sanborn’s Co. in Bennington Vt. under General Stark. On October 21, 1779, Israel Clifford, Sr. of Deerfield petitioned the state for reimbursement for the expense of bringing Tristam home and nursing him after he fell ill in the army. Tristam was a minor under the 21 years of age.

Israel Clifford Sr. was probably born in Kingston, NH on 21 February 1728-9. He married Deliverance Bushwell. Their children were Deliverance, Israel Jr., Tristam, and Dorothy who was born somewhere around 1760-65. There may have been other children. After his wife Deliverance died, Israel married his second wife, Lydia _____.

They had at least one daughter, Mary, born 1784-85. She married Ephram Davis, on 29 December 1801 in Springfield. There may have been others. About the time that the Revolutionary war ended, Israel Sr, Lydia, Tristam, and the rest of the children moved
to Protectworth (Springfield) after receiving grants of land in 1782 and becoming settlers. (The deeds might not have been recorded right away.)

Throughout the 1780s-90s, Israel Clifford Sr. and Jr. were involved in Protectworth (Springfield) government. By March of 1781, town meetings were held in Protectworth rather than Portsmouth. Israel Sr. was survaer [sic] of highways and Israel Jr. was a selectman. Israel Jr. also served again in 1785. In 1788, Israel Jr. was the moderator of town meeting and on the committee to see to the building of the meeting house. In 1781, Israel Jr. was elected selectman by proxies [sic] and also was the fence viewer. Both the father and son were listed on the first Record of Inventory and Taxes in 1794, the year Springfield was incorporated.

In 1798, Israel Jr. and his wife Judith had purchase 100 acres of land and moved to Cornith, Vt. Judith sold her property in Springfield to Reuben Hoyt, Israel Jr’s brother-in-law. Israel Jr. died in 1822 and is buried in Cornith, Vt. Tristam died sometime between 9 November 1796 and 15 August 1797 when his wife, Penelope Clifford filed for administration of his will. In late September 1799, Israel Sr. had sold off Tristam’s property. Part of it was purchased by Penelope. She had married David Perrin who had administered the estate for Penelope.

Israel Clifford Sr.’s daughter Dorothy married Reuben Hoyt who was also a Son of the Revolution. Dorothy and Reuben’s headstones are the only ones I have found for this family in Old Pleasant View Cemetery. Dorothy’s stone is too worn to read the age and year of death. Reuben died March 12, 1827 at age 68 years. There is also a Truston Hoyt nearby that MIGHT be their son and named for Dorothy’s brother Tristam Clifford. (There were several different spellings of the name.) The date of Israel Clifford Sr’s death is presently believed to be 1807. His last real estate transaction was in 1801 with John Thorn. He is not on the 1810 census. By 1812, his wife Lydia and his son, Israel Jr. were petitioning to administer his estate due to his having been dead at least four years.

Israel Clifford Sr. and Tristam Clifford may very well have been buried in Old Pleasant View Cemetery, but the years, weather, and humans have not been kind to the grave plots or stones. There are areas where graves are believed located, but the stones were destroyed years ago. Both Israel Clifford Jr. and Tristam should be recognized as Revolutionary Veterans from Springfield (Protectworth), NH.

Patsy Heath Caswell

Museum News from Curator, Julie Slack

After a long winter, the museum is scheduled to be open on Saturdays in July and August from 2 to 4 pm. The focus of the exhibits will be “Women’s Work” and will feature the around-the-house necessities women needed to get their chores done. We have an interesting array of ironing covering many eras, a Singer sewing machine, needles and thread; even cooking utensils and cookbooks. Perhaps you can find an old recipe from the days-gone-by to try at home!

As always our schoolroom sheds light on the schooldays of yesterday. Trudy Heath has donated some copies of the Springfield Memorial School Newsletter which was a small booklet created by the students, graders 1-6, at Memorial School. Everyone seems to have taken part. The years are from late 1960s to the early 1970s and the names will bring back a memory or two, I'm sure! Those of you who helped create this newsletter can come and relive a piece of your history. While at the museum, you could jot down a memory of your days at school! There is a special memory book there just for the purpose. You will be glad you did someday!

We are working on getting all the town maps straightened out and put into the map file. If anyone has time and energy to work on some maps we have rolled up, just let us know! It is a long, tedious process, but they hold much information about Springfield’s past.

Remember, we are always collecting items for the museum; they don’t have to be really old to be important to the town! If you have something to donate you can contact me at jorrokslack@gmail.com. We are always looking for fresh ideas for exhibits, programs, and areas of focus in the museum as well. Tell us what you would like to see or learn about our town so we can make it happen. If you do not have access to email, you can always mail me at the following: 355 Shad Hill Rd, Springfield, NH 03284.

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PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE DUES DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 31, 2008.
We appreciate your membership and do not want to lose you!

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