President's Message

The speaker for the April 8th meeting of the Springfield Historical Society will be David Watters of the University of New Hampshire. His topic will be "New Hampshire Gravestones: Art in Colonial Times." The gravestones reveal a wealth of information about colonial New Hampshire. David Watters earned his Ph.D. from Brown University and serves as the James Hayes and Clara Short Hayes Chair in the Humanities Dept. at the University of New Hampshire. He is currently editing the *Encyclopedia of New England Culture* and has written several books and articles about American literature and culture. The meeting will be held in the Libbie A. Cass Library Conference Room at 7:00 p.m.

Unsung Workers

There are unsung workers in the Historical Society who keep everything going. They are appreciated. Thank you, Muriel Tinkham, for organizing and keeping track of our growing collection. Donna Denniston is always willing to take on several things at once in her busy life. Thanks for the great refreshments in October and the excellent newsletter you publish at least four times a year. Dick Eldeen quietly records our programs making sure we have a good record of our programs and that they are available to anyone who can't make the meetings. Thank you, Susan Wheeler Cutting, for the brownies we never got to eat! Susan was ready for the January meeting that we canceled due to weather. Since I am in Rhode Island, Bob Nulsen has been our "point man", meeting with any town officials whom we needed to contact. Bob has also organized our programs for the last two years. Keith Cutting has been investigating grants and also preparing a sample budget that the board might consider using. Janet Roberts is our treasurer and also picks up our mail and gets it to the right person, as well as doing other things that she can fit into her busy working mother schedule. Thank you, Marilyn Heath, for all the items that you have contributed to the historical society. Dorothy Eldeen has been very helpful to me on the cemetery committee and is also available to help Muriel. If I have missed YOU out there, I'll catch up with you next time.

Patsy Heath Caswell

Oral History

We are interested in finding someone who likes to talk and visit! We have not been able to gather all the wonderful oral history that is part of Springfield. We would love to have someone take on the project. We have information on how it is best done and could be done whenever this person has the spare time to do it. It would be a great service to Springfield.

Articles

We are always looking for interesting stories that you may be able to tell about your experiences in Springfield and surrounding towns. Please submit them to Donna Denniston.

PROJECT APPEAL

The selectmen of Springfield have agreed to paint the Springfield Historical Society Museum building when the weather improves. They would like the Historical Society to fund $1500 of the cost. The society considers that a reasonable request because the town does not charge us rent and the town's people have been generous with items and pictures. Therefore, the board would appreciate contributions from our ninety-seven active members and businesses to assist with this undertaking and with the society's work to preserve the history of the town of Springfield.
DID YOU KNOW?

One of the first horseless carriages in the United States was built in Sunapee, NH by Springfield native, Enos M. Clough. Enos displayed his steam engine contraption named the “Fairy Queen” in Newport, NH on July 4, 1869. He drove it from Sunapee to Newport to take part in the 4th of July celebration. Of course “Fairy Queen” frightened all the Newport horses and was soon ordered out of town by Newport’s first selectman.

Enos had been born in Springfield, NH where he grew up and married. After his first wife and two children died, he moved to Vermont and married again. He was probably a natural mechanical genius working on many devices. Enos returned to Springfield and started working on “Fairy Queen.” It took him fourteen years and approximately $1300. He may have been inspired by the first steam train that came to Newbury in 1849.

In the 1870's, Enos Clough moved to Lakeport, NH and became a mechanic for the Boston and Maine Railroad. He sold “Fairy Queen” to Richard Gove, a Laconia jeweler in exchange for a gold watch. Gove soon crashed “Fairy Queen” into a fence causing the first accident in NH, or maybe even in U.S. history! The engine was sold at auction for $10.00 to A.S. Gordon. Henry Ford tried to purchase it for his museum. It ended up in the basement of a Mrs., Kennedy’s house in Laconia and she eventually sold it to a man in Wolfeboro.

The Encyclopedia of American History gives credit for building the earliest steam operated auto in the United States to Henry A. House in 1866. The Stanley brothers built their steamer later. At onetime, the Stanley Steamer was unofficially clocked at 197 miles an hour! Of course it went flying through the air and cracked up!


Patsy Heath Caswell

Do YOU have a “Did you know” about people, places or events in Springfield or the surrounding area?

We still want to hear from you with stories and anecdotes about your experiences and memories of life in Springfield. You don’t have to be a polished or professional writer! We are interested only in the subject matter. You can leave the spelling and grammar checks to us and the computer. We’d love to hear from you! We can scan photos into the computer also and would be happy to return them to you when we’re done.

Send your story of life in Springfield to Donna Denniston, PO Box 184, W. Springfield NH