Springfield, NH. Historical Society Newsletter

Dedicated to preserving Springfield’s History Since 1984
Fall 2006

President’s Message:
The Springfield Historical Society October meeting will be WEDNESDAY, October 11th, at the Springfield Meeting House. (Note the change of day.) Speaking will be Michael Tougias who will narrate his slide presentation based on his book, INDIAN WARS OF NEW ENGLAND. He will cover the conflicts from the Pilgrims to the closing days of the French and Indian War. Mr. Tougias did a presentation last year on “Exploring the Connecticut River From Source to Sea.” It was very well received. The program is sponsored by the New Hampshire Humanities Council.

APPRECIATION
Thank you, Trudy Heath for a fine job the last three years as our treasurer. Trudy and Julie Slack are organizing a Springfield Historical Society scholarship for a Springfield student graduating from high school. There will be more details later. Thank you, Jennifer Caswell for organizing our historical society web page. Check us out at http://www.historical.springfieldnh.net/

Thank you, Donna and Brandt Denniston for the lovely refreshments at the July annual meeting. We had our largest crowd to date, which was probably close to 100. Thank you to Don Garlock for organizing the panel. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

Thank you, to the museum committee who have worked in various ways to improve the use of the museum. Ed Belfield, Peter and Ann Nielson, Nancy Bower, and Nancy Watkins.

Thank you, Mary Lou McGuire from the Sullivan County Genealogy group who spent one afternoon with me surveying and recording the graves in Old Pleasant View Cemetery. Ms McGuire wanted to see the process we are using to record the graves. To date, we have recorded 580 graves in our oldest town cemetery.
There are those among us "of a certain age," who remember when the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month was the day Americans set aside 11 minutes of silence to remember the armistice and the veterans of World War 1914. In the late 20th century, it became Veterans' Day.

Looking through the historical society material and some of my own, three veterans with Springfield connections from earlier wars, were found. The first, George Mason Lovering was born in Springfield 10 January 1832. He received the Medal of Honor in the Civil War. George entered the service in East Randolph, MA. He was a First Sgt., Company 1, 4th MA Infantry at Port Hudson, LA. His citation reads, "On 14th June 1863, during a momentary confusion in the ranks caused by other troops rushing upon the regiment, this soldier, with coolness and determination rendered efficient aide in preventing a panic among troops. The Medal of Honor was issued 19 Nov 1891. George Mason Lovering died in Holbrook, MA, 2 April 1919. There is a memorial plaque just behind the Unknown Soldier Monument in Old Pleasant View Cemetery. There are flags each side of the plaque.

*****

The other two servicemen chosen had been corresponding with cousins back home. The first also serving in the Civil War was Dr. David Goodhue, Acting Assistant Surgeon on the "USS Maumee" at Hampton Roads, VA. Dr. Goodhue had studied medicine with Dr. E. K Webster of Boscawen and attended lectures at the University of Vermont and Dartmouth where he received his MD in 1863. While on the "USS Maumee", he received a letter from his cousin Maria Augusta Agar. Excerpts of her letter writing style of the period are interesting.

My Dear Cousin...I consider you very excusable for not writing me sooner. In these times of trial the Pen is always to be thrown aside for the sword, but I hope the time is not far distant when these deadly weapons which our soldiers now wield, will be beat into ploughshares and pruning hooks. Does it not indeed seem terrible, that our land from Maine to the Gulf is moistened and enriched by the blood of, well I call them mistaken men on both sides and hope and trust you do...

Please give me some particulars of the fights in which you have been engaged. How sad was the death of our cousin S.O. Stone. I wonder whether Uncle's folks ever recovered the body....Not many households now but have a vacant chair....I hope that you and brother Tom will render Gen. Sherman all the advice and assistance possible, and then I think this cruel war will soon be over. Please accept the love and good wishes of your affectionate Cousin.

Maria Augusta Agar

There are some date discrepancies between the letter and the biography of Dr. Goodhue in THE HISTORY OF SPRINGFIELD, by Charles McDaniel, but he served on several ships and was discharged 9 October 1865. On 19 February 1866, Dr. Goodhue began his successful medical practice in Springfield. His family lived in the house on the corner of Main Street and George Hill Road. His great granddaughter still resides there. He and Abbie had four children. Most of us would be familiar with Libbie Abbie Goodhue Cass for whom our Libbie A. Cass Library is named.
And now for the war President Wilson thought "...would end all wars," World War 1914.

Cpl. Arthur Heath was serving with the Lafayette Espadrilles in France where he would receive fourragere and medal of France. His service with the 103rd American Pursuit Squadron took him to France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

On 3 October 1918 Arthur answered a letter from his cousin Elsie May Heath, who lived in Springfield on the family farm located on the Fourth NH Turnpike (4A).

She, as well as other farm girls from the area, worked at the hotels in Georges Mills and other towns around Lake Sunapee during the tourist season.

My Dear Cousin, I will try to answer your letter this morning. I am more than pleased to hear from you as I am on the sick list. I have a chance to do a little writing. My hand got sore. I could not work...We have been having a lot of rain here lately, and it is getting cold. No, I don't suppose "Georges Mills" are the same old mills. These days...I don't imagine that "Mother's" pancakes have changed much...ooh-la,la...

(Evidently Elsie had told him about a boyfriend and he sent some advice.)

...I am glad you are enjoying yourself...A fellow trying to entertain you, well whatever you do be careful when you go to get in that gig. Because it may hit the ground. "N'est-ce-pa?"

I reckon [sic] I will close for this time and get some water to wash with.

Hope you are well and happy.

Love and best wishes from Arthur.

Sadly, Elsie May, age 20 years, died 30 October 1918 in Springfield from influenza. She may never have read the letter that was written by cousin Arthur, on 3 October 1918. The armistice ending World War 1914 was signed the 11th of November 1918. Arthur came home from the war and married Elsie Philbrick. They had two sons, Sherman who died young and Arthur W. Heath, Jr. The family lived in Otterville for many years and Arthur was involved in several endeavors from landscaping to real estate. Arthur W. Heath, Sr. died early November, 1983.

****

Springfield historical Society Annual Treasurer’s Report
July 2005-2006

Check book Balance July 1 2005..................................................$9,361.60

Income:
Interest...........................................$9.30
NHHC..............................................417.40
Donations.......................................208.00
Books/Cards.....................................557.00
Dues..............................................865.00
Misc.............................................17.50
TOTAL..............................................$2,074.20

Expenses:
PSNH.............................................$146.08
Advertising.....................................378.95
Newsletters.....................................410.88
Speakers........................................759.94
Supplies.........................................66.04
Misc.............................................362.36
TOTAL..............................................$2,124.25

Checkbook Balance July 1, 2006..............................................$9,311.55

Certificate of Deposit..................................................$3,330.89

SOMETHING NEW

If you have paid your dues, we plan to attach a membership card to your newsletter starting with this September copy. A red dot signifies that we have not received your dues.

Type of Membership
SPRINGFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP:
Individual $15.00
Family of 2 or more $25.00
Lifetime per person $125.00
Business, your discretion

Name

Street/PO Box

City/Town State/Zip

PLEASE MAIL YOUR SUMMER AND WINTER ADDRESSES TO THE FOLLOWING:
Stuart Wade, Treasurer, Springfield Historical Society, PO Box 6, Springfield, NH, 03284.

ORDER SHEET
A COLLECTION OF SPRINGFIELD STORIES $15.00 + POSTAGE $2.00
A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF SPRINGFIELD $15.00 + POSTAGE $2.00
BOTH FOR ABOVE, $25.00 AND POSTAGE $4.00 MAIL TO ABOVE ADDRESS.
Springfield Historical Society Officers, 2006-2007

President:  Patsy Heath Caswell
Vice President:  Don Garlock
Secretary:  Donna Denniston
Treasurer:  Stewart Wade
Board Members:
  1 year, Julie Slack
  2 years, Bob Nulsen
  3 years, Muriel Tinkham
Acquisition for Museum Committee
  Nancy Bower, Ann and Peter Neilson, Ed Belfield, and Nancy Watkins