Springfield Historical Society News
Dedicated to Preserving Springfield NH’s History since 1984

October, 2007

The President’s Message:

The October Historical Society meeting will be Thursday, October 11th, 7:00pm at the Springfield Meeting House. Everyone is welcome. The program topic is Growing Up In Springfield and there will be a panel from all generations responding to questions about school, fun, games, and social life in their formative years. This should be a very enjoyable evening. Refreshments will be served.

This has been a sad year for Springfield and the historical society. The latest member to pass on is Wesley Tinkham, husband of Muriel. Wesley was the quiet member of the family who, behind the scenes, built beautiful storage boxes and magazine racks for the museum. Wesley will be missed.

Thank you to our Curator, Julie Slack and the museum committee, Ed Belfield, Trudy Heath, Peter and Ann Neilson who worked very hard to get the museum ready for July and August. The building was cleaned and new exhibits were prepared such as exhibiting the portraits of Dr. Goodhue and daughter Lucia, Daughter Libbie Goodhue Cass’es portrait was loaned by the library to the society for the summer. Also on exhibit was the antique quilt presented to us by Nyla Waddell. It had been given to her great grandfather Rev. Tyrell when he retired as pastor of the Grantham church.

Thank you Donna and Brandt Denniston for providing refreshments at the museum open house after the Annual Meeting in July. Added thanks go to Brandt who worked very hard for three months to organize the treasurer’s duties and requirements of the state. It is a demanding position and now there is a format to follow for Brandt and future treasurers.

Volunteers are needed: I need someone to help me at least one afternoon, Oct. 8-13th for about 2 hours. We would be doing a survey of gravestones in Old Pleasant View Cemetery. It is not difficult, but time consuming. About 800 have been done to date. I can be contacted at caswellheath@msn.com, 401.847.6782 or after October 6, at 603.763.9655.

Volunteers are also needed to do refreshments for the April and July Annual Meeting. Once again, you may contact me.

Donna Denniston won the painting of Aaron’s Ledge. Over $360.00 raised went toward the Scholarship Fund.
Proposed Changes to SHS Constitution By-Laws, 2007

At the October 11th meeting, we will be voting on the changes to the Constitution and By Laws, last revised in 1995. The committee was made up of Trudy Heath, Julie Slack, and Patsy Caswell. Later in the year, when Brandt Denniston became treasurer, he had some suggestions that we adopted. The changes were approved by the Board, July 26, 2007. Anyone wishing to read the complete proposed copy of the Constitution - By Laws will find them on our website. A copy may also be requested by mail.

CHANGES ARE IN CAPITAL LETTERS

ARTICLE II. TIME PERIOD
The period of existence shall be perpetual FROM ITS INCEPTION, JULY 1, 1985.

Original Article III: Purpose
It lists all the items and functions the society will attempt to accomplish.
CHANGE Article III: MISSION (We have changed the word to be current. We have also switched around the paragraphs.) The last paragraph, “The society will disseminate historical information, gather and maintain cemetery records, mark historical buildings, sites, and trails when possible.” THE NEW PHRASE IS GATHER AND MAINTAIN CEMETERY RECORDS. The original third paragraph will become the last paragraph.

ARTICLE V. AGENT
The name of the initial registered agent is Robert E. Moore. THE CURRENT REGISTERED AGENT SHALL BE THE TREASURER.

ARTICLE VI: ADDRESS
We have added PO before Box 6, our address, and removed Robert Moore’s address.

ARTICLE VII: MEMBERSHIP
Membership shall be FIVE classifications
1. All residents of Springfield are considered represented.
2. Individual active members same
3. FAMILY ACTIVE MEMBERS—ANY FAMILY INTERESTED IN THE PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY SHALL BE ELIGIBLE.
4. Business members same as before
5. Life members

ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS
We removed “a” before vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.

ARTICLE XI: ELECTION OF OFFICERS
2. WE TOOK OUT THE PHRASE “OF THE SOCIETY AT ANY TIME ETC.” and replaced it with the following: ANY ACTIVE MEMBER MAY MAKE NOMINATIONS TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE PRIOR TO THE ANNUAL MEETING.
3. A CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION SHALL BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER.
#5 BECOMES 4. IN THE EVENT OF RESIGNATION OR INCAPACITY OF ANY OFFICER EXCEPT THE PRESIDENT, THE VACANCY MAY BE FILLED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

ARTICLE XIII. CONFLICT OF INTEREST The original was poorly written by state officials, so it was rewritten by Brandt Denniston.


ARTICLE XV: AMENDMENT
The last sentence has been eliminated because the amendments have always been made by the Board of Directors.

BY-Laws

ARTICLE 1: MEMBERSHIP AND DUES
1. Any person interested in the history of Springfield, New Hampshire who applies for membership in any classification of membership and who tenders the necessary dues shall thereby become AN ACTIVE MEMBER. There are FIVE CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP. FAMILY was added (family active member, two or more, etc.)
5. life active membership – one individual or couple who pay life membership dues, etc.

ELIMINATED:
Annual dues may be payable in advance. Membership in arrears more than one (1) year after payment is due shall be dropped from active membership.
It will read instead: 4. MEMBERSHIP IN ARREARS SHALL BE DROPPED FROM ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP.
ARTICLE II.

2. THE JULY MEETING WILL ALSO BE THE ANNUAL MEETING.

ARTICLE III

3. THE TREASURER: (The treasurer section, although not in large print, is mostly new to the Constitution and By Laws.)
   a. Shall be responsible for the safekeeping of all society funds and for maintaining financial records in a manner that is consistent with the fiduciary responsibilities to contributors, comparable with budgeted spending categories and documented with a sufficient audit trail,
   b. Shall collect dues, contributions and grants and deposit all monies received with any reliable bank in New Hampshire in the name of the Springfield Historical Society,
   c. Shall prepare a budget for the ensuing year and present it to the board for its approval,
   d. Solely shall disburse funds to the extent that the category amounts do not exceed the full year approved budget amount for the categories. In the absence or incapacity of the treasurer, another officer or board member may fulfill the duties of the treasurer,
   e. Shall report each quarter to the board the year-to-date spending against the full year approved budget,
   f. Shall aid the president in naming an audit committee in January of each year. The audit committee shall be comprised of at least two members and it shall be responsible for completing the annual financial audit by March 1st,
   g. Shall issue an annual report based on the calendar year to the board at January meeting and to the membership following the board adoption of the auditor’s report at the April meeting,
   h. Shall as required in April, file the annual report to the New Hampshire Attorney General Charitable Trust Unit with payment of the required fee.

5. The BOARD OF DIRECTORS shall have the power to conduct all affairs of the society.
   NEW: THE BOARD SHALL AID THE PRESIDENT IN NAMING A NOMINATING COMMITTEE OF THREE, WHO WILL SELECT THE CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE BY APRIL 1ST IN TIME FOR NOTIFICATION OF THE MEMBERS PRIOR TO THE ANNUAL MEETING IN JULY. They shall decide questions of policy that for any reason cannot be acted upon at a meeting of the society and perform other functions as designated in the by-laws or otherwise assigned to it. At any meeting of the Board of Directors, FOUR members shall constitute a quorum.
   THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE HAS BEEN ELIMINATED: THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, THROUGH THE CHAIRPERSON SHALL ISSUE AN ANNUAL REPORT OF EACH ANNUAL MEETING.(This is already listed under President)

ARTICLE IV: STANDING COMMITTEES

WHENEVER FEASIBLE THE SOCIETY SHALL ATTEMPT TO have the following committees:
They remain the same except for following: THE ACQUISITION COMMITTEE SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE MUSEUM COMMITTEE.—RESPONSIBLE FOR COLLECTING, CATALOGING, AND PRESERVING BOOKS, MANUSCRIPTS, NEWSPAPERS, AND OTHER HISTORICAL MATERIALS AND OBJECTS, FOR EXHIBITS, AND FOR THE CARE AND UPKEEP OF THE SOCIETY BUILDING OR MEETING AREA. THE MUSEUM COMMITTEE SHALL BE CHAIRED BY THE CURATOR.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE—RESPONSIBLE EACH YEAR FOR ORGANIZING THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

There were no changes or additions to the other standing committees.

A SHORT STORY ABOUT SPRINGFIELD

Ella Carpenter Pickering and Eleanor Carpenter Farr gave some family pictures and articles that they had saved over the years to the Springfield Historical Society. One of the items of interest was when electricity arrived in Springfield. This article dated March 26th was cut out of a NH paper in 1937. We do not have the name of the paper, but the by-line was H.N, Wells. The city is Claremont. The headline reads, “SPRINGFIELD, SOUTH CORNISH AND NORTH CHARLESTOWN AREAS GOT SERVICE—WASHINGTON PLANNING 19 MILE SETUP SOON” The article said that Springfield folks could rejoice that they could put away their kerosene lamps that had served them so long because electricity had come to town! The Public Service had flicked the switch. The red letter day had been March 13th for the “strictly rural town tucked away in the northeastern corner of Sullivan County. This made electricity available to most of the town.

The people involved in bringing electricity to Springfield were Mr. and Mrs Ed. C Philbrick, A.H. Metcalf and Mrs. S. A, Alexander. They were aided by Sullivan County Extension Svc. and the Farm Bureau. The town’s people voted additional funds to complete financing the project. The construction began at Robinson’s corner near Georges Mills and covered about 9 miles. It went through West Springfield village, Philbrick Hill, and George Hill.

Through these efforts, 40 homes were lighted as well as a “powerful beacon on Philbrick Hill to guide the ships of the Boston and Maine airways as they pass in the night.” The leaders of the enterprise hoped that the arrival of electricity would bring more “summer folks.”

Around 1940-1941, the REA (Rural Electric Agency) one of the New Deal programs, brought electricity to 4A, then called the 4th NH Turnpike. What a difference that made to my grandparents’ farm on 4A. I quickly learned about the power of electricity when at age four, I stuck a bobby pin in a wall plug in our new house by Lake Kolelemook! I believe that most of the Springfield people kept their kerosene lamps handy for sometimes electricity was know to fail especially in the winter. Who remembers the “powerful beacon Philbrick Hill”? If you do let us know. Neither my mother nor I remember it. (Patsy Heath Caswell)