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*Trustees: David & Kathi Byam, Carol Hansen, Marc Kimball, Betty Kinsman,
Walter Martone, Hugh & Rosanne "Bunni" Putnam*

August, 2022 Newsletter

WE ARE OPEN ON SATURDAYS, AT OUR USUAL TIME, 1 - 4 PM (or by appointment). Free admission.

To comply with State requirements, masks will be required if you are not fully vaccinated.

Programs & Activities

Yard Sale: September 17th, 9 AM – 3 PM at the Society.

Items are arriving almost daily at the Kinsman's. If you have items to donate, please call Betty at 802-886-2414 to arrange for drop-off. Please be selective because any items that do not sell, we must dispose of. No clothing or suitcases, please, they generally do not sell.

Annual Meeting: Vermont Eats (and A Tasting), October 15th, 1 PM to 4 PM at the Society.

At 1:00 will be a short annual meeting to elect officers and approve the new budget. Only society members will be able to vote on these items.

Steve Perkins, President of the Vermont Historical Society, will present the program, "**Vermont Eats**" which will speak to how we got through the depression and war when so many food products were rationed. Being born after the war in a house with five children, looking over depression recipes, I can see that some of our meals were a carry-over from that time period. We also plan to prepare some of the recipes that Steve will bring so we can all have a taste. The program will be held in the program room at the Society so space is somewhat limited.

What Have We Been Doing?

If you have been in the Great Hall lately, you may have notice that some of the items from the Fellows display are missing. That is because they are now on display at the Historical Society.

We continue to get inquiries and requests for information. They range from requests for photographs, to genealogy information, to general history of people and places in town. Some answers are fairly easy, others require a bit more research.

Three of the board members attended a series of four programs regarding cataloging put on by the Vermont Historical Society in Barre. They were very informative and helped us organize our own cataloging. We are starting from one end of the artifacts room and, going box by box, doing a basic sort of the contents to be sure there is nothing mis-boxed. We will then put a general label on the box and give it a location for quick reference. Sometime in the future, the individual items in the boxes will need to be itemized.

New Acquisitions

In July the society received four artifact donations of particular interest: a doll, a pencil sharpener, a typewriter., and Fellows Gear Shaper patents:



This doll was from John Follett and it is a Mason & Taylor doll made in Springfield around the mid to late 1800s. Joel Ellis patented the first jointed doll in America as well as originated the idea of the doll carriage and several other children's toys. Ellis was later joined by other local doll makers, such as Mason & Taylor, each adding their improvement to the doll.



This draftsman's pencil sharpener was donated by Warren Garfield and it is an invention of William LeRoy Bryant. On the sharpening wheel it says "W, Bryant, 1904. The body of the sharpener would be bolted to the wall or desk top and the drafting pencil would be placed in opening on the top and circled around until it was sharp. Bryant was chief draftsman working for James Hartness at J&L at the time.



A Hammond typewriter was another gift from John Follett. It was produced by the Hammond Typewriter Company in New York about 1905. There were many versions of the typewriter at this time but the Hammond No.

12 had a very unusual letter striking placement called "the Multiplex shuttle type with its hammer typing mechanism;" the keys were placed cylinder fashion rather than in a crescent which we all are familiar with. This typewriter was part of the original Wiggins Lumber business.

Another donation arrived when Don Whitney's daughters brought us a box of Fellows Gear Shaper original patents. There are original patent applications, documents turning the design over to the company and patents allowing foreign companies to build the machine. E. W. (Ted) Miller's name was, far and away, on the largest number of the patents we received. It is an amazing collection of machine tool history.



We Remember Donald Whitney

Of course, speaking of Don Whitney, we would be remiss if we did not say how much we miss his visits to the Society. Don passed away March 8, 2022; he would have turned 100 on October 11, 2022. He was a wealth of information, not only because he lived in Springfield for close to 100 years, he graduated from the Springfield Co-op course, he worked at Fellows Gear Shaper for his entire career and was one of the few people his age who understood computers early on and would go the other shops and help them. But more than that, he had a fabulous memory!

It did not matter what subject you brought up he knew something about it, be it a photograph, an occasion, or a particular incidence. He would come to the Society and either bring something that we would talk about or someone would bring up a subject and he would fill in all the details. Towards the end when it was difficult for him to get around his daughter, Paula, said the only place he would want to go was to the Historical Society, and we were always glad to have him come. Hugh Putnam, more than once told him we only wish we could record his memories.

Don was an important part of Springfield's history. He founded the Fellows Corner at the Great Hall and spent many months renovating the Spencer Hollow Schoolhouse, one of Springfield's first public schools. He was involved in Boy Scouts and a prolific photographer. We are all so glad that he received "Citizen of Year" in 2017.

The 2023 Calendar

We are working on the 2023 calendar of historic pictures. We hope to have it out for sale no later than the first of October. David Byam has the calendar pages set up, and we have picked out several pictures. It is just a matter of making the final selection. We expect there will a price increase due to the increased cost of materials.

We are also contacting sponsors to offset the cost of printing the calendar. If you would like to contribute, there are two options: \$75 allows you to sponsor a whole month with your name under the picture of the month and your business card or name on the last page. \$25 puts your business card and/or name on the last page of the calendar as a sponsor. This is one of our important fund raisers to support the work of the Society.

If you are interested in being a sponsor and also receive a free calendar, please contact Betty Kinsman (802-886-2414) or email sahs@vermontel.net

A Bit of History



Have you priced new stoves lately? At Home Depot, I found electric stove prices between \$647 and \$2338!

This advertisement appeared in the September 6, 1928 **Springfield Reporter**. And just \$69.75 mind you -- NOT \$69.75 a month for many months or years.

However, on the hot summer days we have had this year (90+), how would you like to have this nice big black stove heating up your kitchen while making dinner for the family? Remember ordering out for pizza was not an option in 1928.

From the ad:

*August, September, October - Save money now. We can't afford to hold this extra-special introductory price after November 1. * * * * * What a range it is! A genuine No. 8 Crawford built for a lifetime of good cooking! Single damper control, double mantel (gas end oven, if you wish it, at slight extra cost, when you buy or later), all the famous Crawford refinements of design and construction for only \$69.75. A small deposit down and just a few pennies a day will put it in your kitchen. At a slight additional cost the Union may be had in gray enamel. Come and look at this beautiful range.*

New Member* or Donation Form

*If you are currently a member, you will receive a renewal reminder in the mail.

We are working hard to expand and protect Springfield's history, please help us. Checks should be made payable to SAHS and can be mailed to the address below:

SPRINGFIELD ART & HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. Box 336, North Springfield, VT 05150

() Individual, \$20 () Family, \$35 () Advocate, \$50 () Sponsor, \$100 () Benefactor, \$250

Amount enclosed for a Donation or New Membership: \$ _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Date: _____

(Your email will only be used for our communication to you; it will not be shared.) If you received this newsletter by email and you would rather have a printed copy, please let us know at sah@vermontel.net