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

April, 2022 Newsletter

WE ARE OPEN ON SATURDAYS, AT OUR USUAL TIME, 1 - 4 PM. Free admission.
To comply with State requirements, masks will be required if you are not fully vaccinated.

Program (no program in June or July)

"The Geologic History of Springfield"
Saturday, May 21 at 2:00 pm

Do you admire the rocky cliffs of Skitchewaog Mountain? Tired of hitting a rock every time you dig into your garden? From beaches and seas and glorious mountains to mile-thick ice and a huge lake, find out how it all became the land that Springfield sits upon.

Presented by Cheryl Cox at Springfield Art and Historical Society, 65 Route 106 in North Springfield, Vermont. Cheryl has a Master of Science degree in Geology and a lifelong love of geological and natural histories.

This program is free and open to all. For more information call 802-886-7935 or email sahs@vermontel.net.



Erratics located on Carley Road, Springfield.

New Displays

Please stop in and enjoy the new gowns and camera display as well as the Fellows display and the hand craved farm animals.

The Coming of Spring and Apple Blossom Time

In honor of the Apple Blossom Cotillion, we have four Cotillion gowns on display. Two are white (one is part of another display), one has an apple blossom underlayment and the fourth one is the Bi-centennial gown.



Cameras

Remember when cameras had to have film and most people had to then send the film away? Ken Stringham and Hugh Putnam have combined their camera collections with the Society's to present a new display featuring cameras from late 1890's thru the 1980's. The display features two large format (8 x10) studio cameras from our collection donated by William Lashua as well as a variety of still cameras, lenses and their accessories.



< Some items are not normally seen including a very early and unusual flash bulb (GE Mazda No.75). that covers over a century of picture taking.

Also, we will have a couple of antique, hand held, stereoscope viewers available some double-image photos to look at. This was the precursor to the three-dimensional viewer that many of us remember as the “View-Master.” >



Remembering Don Whitney

The town of Springfield has lost one of its most vital town historians. Don Whitney's knowledge and memory of shop and town history was a treasure chest of information. He was born in 1922, grew up in Spencer Hollow, and graduated in 1940 from the Springfield High School Co-op Program. He worked his whole life at Fellows Gear Shaper and was a few months shy of 100 years old when he passed away.

If there were questions about an event or people, he usually could shed some light on the subject. When Fellows Gear Shaper closed, he did not want it to become forgotten and started up the Fellows Corner at the Great Hall. It became a collection point for many Fellows artifacts. Then there was the Spencer Hollow Schoolhouse. Under his direction, so many people took part in saving what may be the oldest brick schoolhouse in the state. From initiating the paperwork to put it on the Historic Register to planning and directing the renovation, he saved one of Springfield's iconic buildings. But now it needs a new curator.

Don liked to visit the society and, when he came, we all stopped what we were doing to hear what he had to say. He had so much information that one day Hugh Putnam said to him, “Don, where is your USB port?” If only we could have saved all that information. His daughter, Paula, has generously donated several items to the society, for which we very much appreciate.

So Don, we wish you slopes of powdery snow and sunny trails on your journeys; you are very much missed here.

Family Genealogies

The society is collecting local family genealogies. Hubbard and Dart's book, *History of the Town of Springfield, Vermont* published in 1895, has a large section of genealogies of the early settlers of the town up to 1890, but only if the family submitted a response.

Towards the end of the 1800s, people were making their way across the ocean to the United States looking for a better life. Springfield became a destination also for workers from our north. The machine tool industry was expanding and word was out that there were good jobs here and the town took on a varied population base. We became a homogenized community that basically worked well together.

Please help us with this project. If you have a family genealogy, no matter how incomplete, please share it with us. It is important that we do not lose this part of the town's history. At some point we would like to put them all into a genealogy program so later generations will have easy access to family records.

We will be glad to photocopy any paperwork you have for our records. What you know now will save someone a great deal of research time later.

A Bit of History: Lunch at J & L - 1919

There is one thread that runs continuously through James Hartness' J & L and that was he always had the best interest of his employees at heart. This was again brought to light during World War I. He knew he would have to hire women as more men left for the war. He made it clear that the women would be paid the same wage as men for the same work. Also, they would be promoted as they proved their ability to do more complex jobs.

Another interesting benefit for his employees came about in 1918--the J & L food service. It started off with a gas plate and selling coffee and hot chocolate during the noon hour for 3c a cup, averaging 67 to 70 cups a day. Then the "girls" at the upper shop installed a gas stove for hot drinks and to heat cans of soup for lunch. This seemed to take too much of their lunch hour so they all chipped in for the food and Miss Evelyn Parmelle and Mrs. Amanda Randall were hired to prepare a hot meal.

Well, what about the men? They should have something hot to go with their lunches from home. Mrs. Randall was put in charge and the first table seated four. Soon it grew to three tables. By June 1919 the demand had grown and the company decided to provide a proper eating place.

The new facility was located in the basement of the south end of the lower shop nearest to the river. The dining hall was 20 feet wide and 210 feet long, with the kitchen adding another 40 feet. The room was painted white, with a French grey floor. The windows faced the river and had white dotted muslin curtains. There were 30 tables for eight and two tables for two totaling 244 seats. The kitchen had a double gas range, large work tables, cupboards and sinks, and a large refrigerator. Mr. Beals and Mrs. Randall worked together to order dishes, utensils, and groceries.

When the restaurant opened on July 12, 1919, workers found waitresses dressed with white aprons, collars and cuffs. The menus were varied and included potatoes, vegetables, meats, fish, sauces, stews, pies, pudding, cookies, doughnuts, cheese and fruits. A baked bean dinner required 38 quarts of beans, two bushels of, pared by hand, apples for pie or apple sauce, three bushels of potatoes were peeled everyday plus 44 cans of vegetables and 90 pounds of meat. Sixty-eight pies and 550 doughnuts or cookies were required for one meal.

Supper was also served to an average of 55 people. There were 10 on the kitchen staff and meals were also sent daily to the upper shop (the Lovejoy Building) in containers that kept them hot.

In addition to the meals, sandwiches were sold throughout the shop in the morning from a coffee wagon. About 220 to 300 sandwiches and 120 half-pint bottles of milk were sold daily.

The newspaper encouraged everyone to appreciate the advantages that J & L provided. They noted that Mr. Hartness, Mr. Woolson, and other J & L managers wanted to convey that the employers and employees were just one family working together and that the contentment pays off for both.

Note: Sorry there are no photographs. Information for this article comes from various Springfield Reporter newspapers. None of the articles specified what the charge was for the meals.

Covid-19 Stories

There does not seem to be any local personal accounts of the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918. The town was making machinery for WWI and it was still a farming community that had livestock and food crops to be cared for.

With this in mind, the society is looking for personal accounts of how life today was affected by this epidemic. These accounts would be of historical interest to future generations just as the epidemic 100 years ago would be to us today. It does not have to be long, comments about how it affected your life—the isolation or getting to know your family better, missing seeing grandchildren or parents, making and wearing masks, did you learn something new or have to do anything differently? If you don't want to use your name, that is fine, but some information that would set the scene would be helpful. Such as are you a student, parent or grandparent? It can be mailed or emailed to one of the addresses above, or hand delivered to the Society.

Please help us put this trying time in prospective.

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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 sahs@vermontel.net**