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April 2024 Newsletter

WE ARE OPEN ON SATURDAYS, AT OUR USUAL TIME, 1 - 4 PM. No admission charge.

Special Events At the Society



Saturday, April 13, 2024 at 2:00 pm: John Swanson will be at SAHS to do a book signing for his new book "War Tears". Books will be available for sale that day or you can order one and bring it for him to sign. Many of you remember John when he taught Social Studies at Riverside School and as a leader/volunteer at SAHS with the Intern Program. Here is a link to his book:

https://www.amazon.com/War-Tears-Journey-Vermont-Gettysburg-ebook/dp/B0CR84HTXS/ref=sr_1_1?crid=HAQ8JV9G9UJM&keywords=war+tears+john+swanson&qid=1704635705&sprefix=War+Tears%2Caps%2C87&sr=8-1



Program on Saturday, April 27, 2024 at 2:00 pm: Jill Mudgett will be speaking on "The Hills of Home: Mountains and Identity in Vermont History". Vermonters have strong ideas about the importance of their mountain topography. The story begins with the state's founders and moves forward through Vermont history to explain how

environmental understandings changed over time. This lecture by historian Jill Mudgett is timely and relevant and offers us tools to understand the origins and meaning of our own strongly-held attachments to the Vermont landscape. This talk is free, open to the public, and accessible to those with disabilities. “The Hills of Home” is a Vermont Humanities Council program hosted by SAHS.

A Bit of History

History of the Town of Springfield

An entire 618 page book online. Or download a copy in PDF form for free. Published in 1895, authored by Charles Hubbard and Justus Dartt. (For other digital formats, [click here](#)

<https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&id=XnthDOdmsD0C&dq=springfield+vermont&printsec=frontcover&source=web&ots=cE7Kew9k19&sig=AacmkmZ-lkKVmlowMbPKxbaEJ2I#v=onepage&q=springfield%20vermont&f=false>



Park Street School opened April 12, 1895.

Here is some information from books about the “new Park Street School building”:

M. Eva Baker; Folklore of Springfield VT, 1922:
p.114 The High School Building

There was “a pressing need of a new school building” and “a dramatic crisis finally occurred when the Parks mansion burned to the ground and the lot on which it stood was thus made available to the town for purchase.” “The town voted in 1891 to have a new school building.” The building was completed and occupied in the winter of 1895-6 and the class of 1896 was the first to graduate from it with Herman Dressel as principal and Frances Pierce as assistant. 18 members graduated.

Keith Barney, The History of Springfield, Vermont”
p.69

“A dedication ceremony was held for the new school building on Jan. 3, 1896. The building had cost \$55,300, including \$5300 for the lots on which it was sited. At the dedication, Adna Brown said, in part, “Some of our townspeople think we have too much room. Let us bring up our town to our school building... (the building) should have been built 20 years ago. It is always wise to keep ahead of the times”

Visit us any Saturday afternoon – why?

We have available many resources that you can use to learn your family history. We have Ancestry.com and newspapers.com and you are welcome to do research. We have Springfield High School Year Books from 1900-current years and you are welcome to look through them. We also have several history books available to you. We also have copies of the Springfield Reporters from 1900 – the present and an obituary index from 1913-today if you want look up someone’s obituary.

Ever wondered if your Grandmother graduated from Springfield High School – and when?

Ever wondered about your friend’s father who died in 2020 – and what his obituary says?

Come check it out. We are open Saturdays 1-4 pm (except for holidays). Admission is free and you’ll enjoy the exhibits, too.

Join Us

Like most volunteer organizations, we are looking for volunteers to become board members, committee members or people who just want to give back a few hours a month. We are an easy-going group and everyone has their job but, needless to say, more hands can always be used. If you have some computer skills, enjoy setting up displays, or could donate one Saturday afternoon every month or two, to greet visitors, or just enjoy working with history, please give us a try. We also need help with things that don’t require historical knowledge, like sorting boxes of artifacts, writing thank you notes, and more. If you are available during a limited season, that’s okay. Go South for the winter and can only help in the summer? That’s okay.

If you’d like to come to a board meeting to meet us, email us at sahs@vermontel.net We meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 4:00 pm. We are very happy to have Theo Avent join the Board and the Collections Committee. He was an intern while in high school, went to college and now is a history teacher at Springfield High School. Welcome, Theo!! And two more volunteers have joined us. It’s looking good but we need more help.

Springfield’s history is filled with so many interesting people who did amazing things, not only here but moved on to other places to make their mark. It is not just about the machine tool businesses. You’ll enjoy learning.

Here are some ads from the 1999 Eagle Times newspaper:



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 is 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**