

Volume 1 | Issue 9
January, 2024

Brimfield Historical Commission

A Message From the BHC

Members

*Donating Historical
Materials*

The Historical Commission wishes everyone A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Welcome to our first issue of 2024. Let's take a look at winter in Brimfield – snowstorms, a local skating talent and amazing photos.

Sue DeBruin, Chairperson
Adrienne Bachand
Roseann Bergdoll
Mark Conners
Robert Corry
John Curtis
Michael DeFalco

If you have any historical documents or photographs pertaining to Brimfield history or her residents that you don't want or don't know what to do with, please consider donating them to the Brimfield Historical Commission. A large part of our mission is to promote and preserve Brimfield history and one important way to manage that is by insuring that items contributing to and documenting that history are kept and made available to future generations. If you share our love of town history and are considering making a donation, please contact a Commission member to discuss the process and answer any questions you might have. If you do have historical items but don't wish to part

with them, consider allowing the Historical Commission to make digital copies and then return the originals.

Brimfield Snowbound

From the Wednesday, February 6, 1918 issue of the Springfield Daily Republican

BRIMFIELD SNOWBOUND

CUT OFF SINCE MONDAY

Over 40 Storm-Delayed People Entertained in Village – Snow Plows Try Unsuccessfully to Open Trolley Line

Brimfield has been completely snow-bound since early Monday afternoon. The oldest inhabitants cannot remember such a time of intense cold, high wind and solid snowbanks. No cars on the Worcester line have gone through the village since 2 p.m. Monday. The townspeople, who have always been noted for their hospitality, have entertained over 40 snowbound people, who had enforced sojourns in many homes.

The car leaving Worcester at 1:45 Monday was stalled in snow drifts near Mill lane, west of Brimfield village, at about 3, and after efforts had been made to get through, the crew was forced to give up the fight at 5. Over 20 passengers and the crew were entertained at supper at the nearer houses and the hotel. Some spent the night at these places, but a number stayed all night in the car with the crew, who refused to abandon the car. The trolley express, following the passenger car, was forced to stop behind it. Both cars are still there.

Snowplows sent out from Palmer were a way through to the home of William Spooner, three-fourths of a mile from the snowbound cars, by 2:30 yesterday morning, but could not get any further. Two cars and shovellers followed from Palmer yesterday, and tried to reach Spooner's. Twenty-three of the imprisoned travelers got wind of this fact and chartered sleighs to take them to Spooner's. After waiting there, it was learned that the cars were stalled half a mile away, and the passengers then walked that distance in the intense cold and were taken to Palmer.

Sixteen persons from Fiskdale and East Brimfield were also unable to get home Monday and, like the others, were taken in by the townspeople. Manager Whitney of the Thayer manufacturing company, who left home Monday for New York, got no further than Brimfield, and yesterday afternoon he chartered a sleigh and gave the 16 marooned weather victims a straw-ride to his home, from where some of them were able to reach their homes. About

9:30 last night the shovelers gave up the task of digging out the cars stuck in
Brimfield, and went back to Palmer.

*Rock Cliff near East
Brimfield*



Springfield Street Railway, Brimfield Extension

Sleigh Rides



From the March 19, 1987 issue of The Journal Register

Rachel Kolbe

Brimfield girl gets top honors in N.E. figure skating championship
By Patti Bacon-Brooks

Discipline seems to be the main ingredient in the extraordinary successes of many young people.

In Brimfield resident Rachel Kolbe's case that penchant for discipline is all the more remarkable in that it was developed at the age of six when she committed herself to year-round participation in the skating club of Springfield.

Now 10 years old, Miss Kolbe has numerous gold, silver and bronze medals from freestyle and figure skating competitions to show for her self-determination, and was most recently awarded first place honors in her division at the New England Juvenile Figure Skating Championship in Danvers.

Sponsored by the North Shore Skating Club and sanctioned by the U.S. Figure Skating Association, the championship event is the most prestigious and significant skating competition in which a New Englander of Miss Kolbe's level of skating ability can compete according to Alice Kolbe, the skater's mother.

Miss Kolbe is currently a Preliminary level skater, which places her in the second of seven classes of skating skill. In order to compete in more skilled competition, namely "the Eastern(s)" championships at the next level up, the skater herself must advance a level in skating skill (to the Juvenile level), and must have been among the top four placers in the New England competition that year.

As skaters proceed through skill levels, they may proceed through championship levels, ending an *[sic]* international level.

Though at this point in her life the young skater says she set her sights no higher than going on to the Eastern championship competition, her mother admits she hopes for more.

"I'd like to see her go to the top testing level," Mrs. Kolbe says. "To complete the eight (required) figures and the (five required) freestyles."

However, Mrs. Kolbe says that does not necessarily mean that she has Olympic or even professional skating aspirations for her daughter. Instead, she says, her primary concern is that the youngster enjoy and appreciate skating as a serious sport and that she strives to do the best that she can.

So far she has not been disappointed. Miss Kolbe willingly foregoes participation in school sports that she might otherwise enjoy to travel to the (West) Springfield Olympia Ice and Roller Sports Center two or three times a week to be coached by professional skating instructor Jaime D'entremont.

It is Ms. D'entremont who has coached the young girl from the start, and it is she who tells her student when she is ready to compete in a skating contest.

Currently the youngster is studying three different types of skating – figure skating, free style (figure) skating, and dance. She has not yet competed in any dance events.

In April she will travel to Worcester to compete in an open freestyle skating competition that she has attended twice in the past. Both times the skater won bronze medals.

And in May, Miss Kolbe will skate a solo number in the Springfield Skating Club's annual ice skating show with fellow (full and associate) members of the club.

Though summer will nearly have arrived by that time, the skater points out that her instructional time on the ice will be undiminished because of Olympia's summer ice program.

And though she says the warmer weather often creates an unusual situation whereby "a lot of times we go to the skating rink and then come back home and go swimming," the pace and conditions are not unpleasant.

"She really likes it," her mother concludes. "She gives up soccer and basketball at school which she would like to do, but she never complains."

And that, perhaps, is the truest sign of discipline.

Ice Cutting



Mill Lane

Main Street Looking West



Common, Dec. 1898

