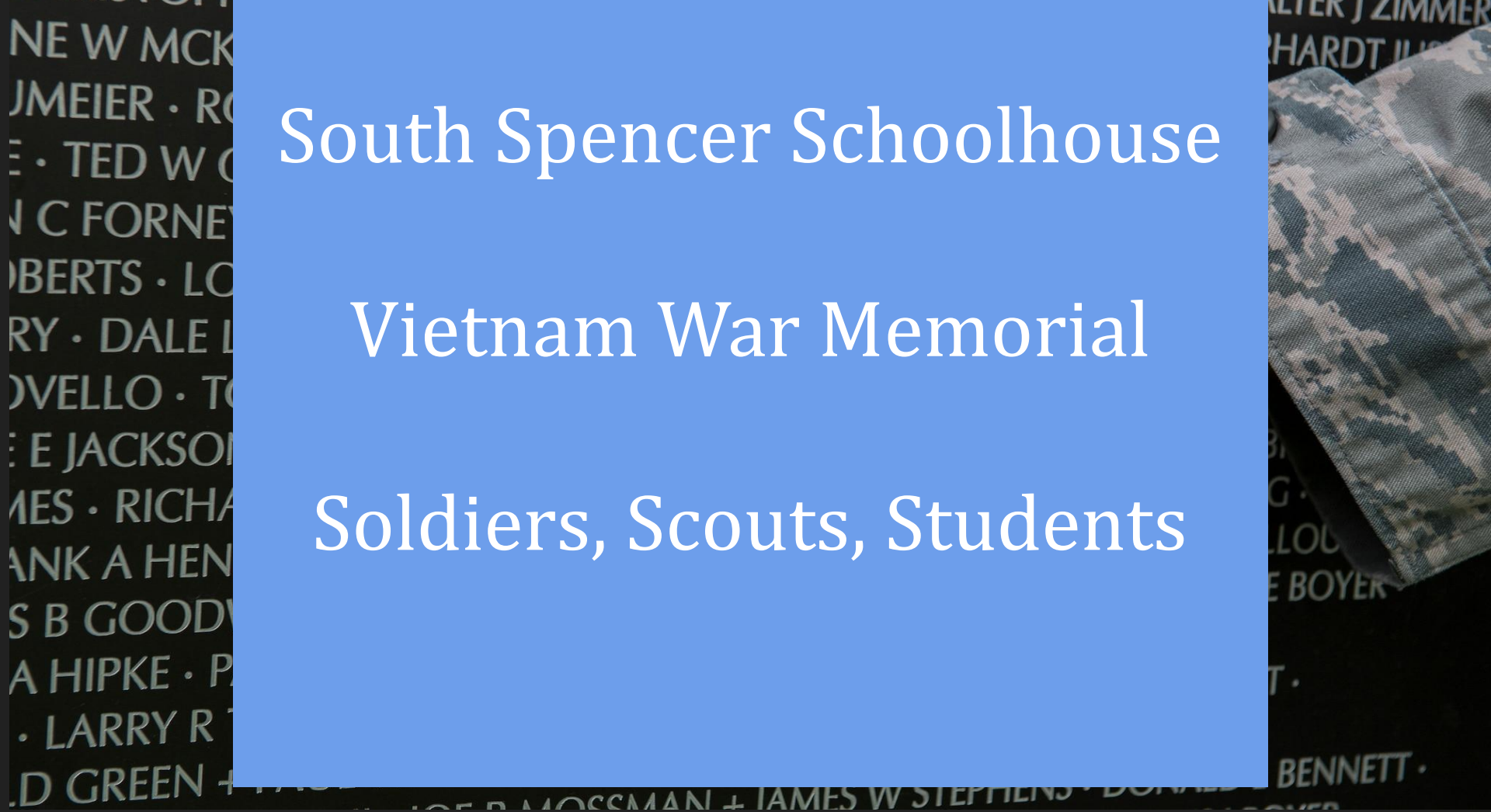
South Spencer Schoolhouse

Vietnam War Memorial

Soldiers, Scouts, Students



Vietnam War memorial headstone



South Spencer Schoolhouse #11



Cannon



Scouts at the Library: Digitization Project




SCOUTING

Soldiers

PFC David Anthony Blough



Photo added by Cara Lee

BIRTH 9 Mar 1949
Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, USA

DEATH 29 Dec 1967 (aged 18)
Tam Kỳ, Thành phố Tam Kỳ, Quảng Nam, Vietnam

BURIAL Worcester County Memorial Park
Paxton, Worcester County, Massachusetts, USA

PLOT Section: Garden of Prayer, Lot Number: 184, Grave Number: 3

MEMORIAL ID 65101565



Added by Cara Lee

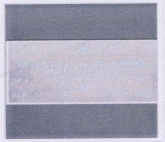
PFC Blough #2378332
MOS: 0311 Rifleman



Added by John

David Anthony Blough was born as George Peter Gloudeman, III, on Mar 9, 1949, in Cleveland, OH, to parents, George Peter and Marion Josephine (Meili) Gloudeman, Jr. When he was five and his sister, Cindy, was three, their father was a pedestrian struck and killed by a car. Soon after, their mother remarried to Donald Francis Blough and the new family moved from Ohio to Massachusetts.

Adopting an entirely new name and identity, young George became David Anthony Blough. Immediately after graduating high school in Spencer, MA, along with two friends, Billie and Ray, David enlisted in the Marines on June 30, 1967, in Boston, MA. When David arrived in Vietnam on December 13, 1967, he was assigned to 3rd Platoon, Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division. David



Benjamin, Kenneth Roger, SP 4

Vietnam War · US Army

FACTS AWARDS STORIES GALLERY SOURCES

TIMELINE

BIRTH - Feb 23, 1948

BIRTH - 1948

Massachusetts

1 Source · 1 link

1955 - 1975 Vietnam War - Age: 20 years

RANK
Specialist Fourth Class

COMPANY
B Co



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Created: May 26, 2010
Modified: Jul 2, 2025

Fold3, *Benjamin, Kenneth Roger, SP 4* (https://www.fold3.com/memorial/111347115/benjamin-kenneth-roger-sp-4 : accessed Nov 19, 2025), database and images, https://www.fold3.com/memorial/111347115/benjamin-kenneth-roger-sp-4

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REGIMENT
16th Infantry

CONFLICT PERIOD
Vietnam War

SERVICE START DATE
Aug 20, 1967

BATTALION
1st Bn

SERVED FOR
United States of America

YEARS SERVED
0

MAJOR COMMAND
1st Inf Div

SPECIALTY
Light Weapons Infantry (ARMY)

GRADE
E4

BRANCH
Army

CASUALTY - Dec 8, 1967 -Age: 20 years

BODY RECOVERED
Recovered

TYPE
Hostile, Died

CAUSE
Multiple Fragmentation Wounds

ENLISTMENT

TYPE
Selective Service

1955 - 1975 Vietnam War

CONFLICT PERIOD
Vietnam War

BRANCH
Army

SERVICE DATES
1967

WALL COORDINATES
31E 063

STATUS
USA Active

MOS
11B20-Infantryman

MOS GROUP
IN-Infantry (Enlisted)

SERVED-FOR
United States of America

1 Source · 1 link

AWARD - Vietnamese Civic Action 1st Class - 1967

2 Source · 1 subject, 1 link

1 Source · 1 link

AWARD - Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation - 1967

2 Source · 1 subject, 1 link

1 Source · 1 link

CASUALTY - Dec 8, 1967 -Age: 20 years

Phuoc Long

CONFLICT PERIOD
Vietnam War

BRANCH
Army

SERVICE DATES
1967

WALL COORDINATES
31E 063

STATUS
USA Active

MOS
11B20-Infantryman

MOS GROUP
IN-Infantry (Enlisted)

SERVED-FOR
United States of America

1 Source · 1 link

AWARD - Vietnamese Civic Action 1st Class - 1967

2 Source · 1 subject, 1 link

1 Source · 1 link

AWARD - Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation - 1967

2 Source · 1 subject, 1 link

1 Source · 1 link

CASUALTY - Dec 8, 1967 -Age: 20 years

Phuoc Long

KIA-Killed in Action

REASON
Multiple Fragmentation Wounds

1 Source · 1 link

AWARD - Purple Heart - 1968

2 Source · 1 subject, 1 link

1 Source · 1 link

AWARD - National Defense Service Medal (2001-202... - 1968

2 Source · 1 subject, 1 link

1 Source · 1 link

AWARD - Vietnam Service Medal - 1968

2 Source · 1 subject, 1 link

1 Source · 1 link

AWARD - Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal - 1968

2 Source · 1 subject, 1 link

1 Source · 1 link

DEATH - Dec 8, 1967 -Age: 20 years

AGE AT DEATH
19

BURIAL
Pine Grove Cemetery

1 Source · 1 link

OTHER FACTS

HOMETOWN
Spencer, MA

MEMORIAL WALL LOCATION: LINE
63

MEMORIAL WALL LOCATION: PANEL
31E

RELIGION
Baptist - Other Groups

RACE OR ETHNICITY
Caucasian

GENDER
Male

MARRIAGE

MARITAL STATUS
Single

FULL NAME
Kenneth Roger Benjamin

GENDER
Male

1 Source · 1 link

BURIAL

Pine Grove Cemetery

1 Source · 1 link

OTHER FACTS

HOMETOWN
Spencer, MA

MEMORIAL WALL LOCATION: LINE
63

MEMORIAL WALL LOCATION: PANEL
31E

RELIGION
Baptist - Other Groups

RACE OR ETHNICITY
Caucasian

GENDER
Male

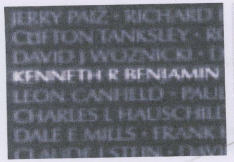
MARRIAGE

MARITAL STATUS
Single

FULL NAME
Kenneth Roger Benjamin

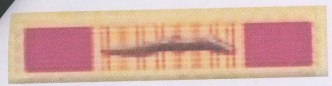
GENDER
Male

1 Source · 1 link

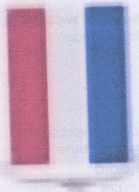

JERRY PAEZ • RICHARD
CLIFTON TANKSLEY • R
DAVID J WOZNICKI • D
KENNETH R BENJAMIN
LEON CANFIELD • PAU
CHARLES L HAUSCHILL
DALE F MILLS • FRANK

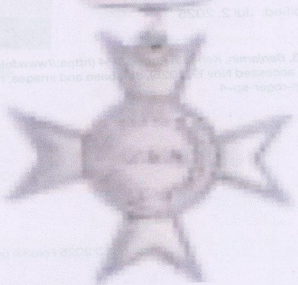


AWARDS



Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation (Army)

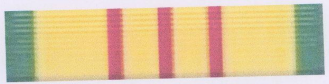




Vietnamese Civic Action 1st Class (Army)



Purple Heart (Army)



Vietnam Service Medal (Army)

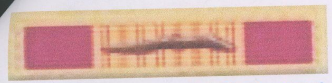


Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal (Army)

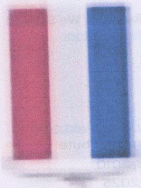


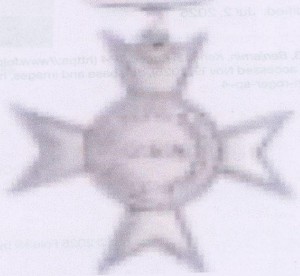
National Defense Service Medal (Army)

PARTNERS



Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation (Army)

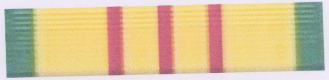




Vietnamese Civic Action 1st Class (Army)



Purple Heart (Army)



Vietnam Service Medal (Army)



Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal (Army)



National Defense Service Medal (Army)

PARTNERS



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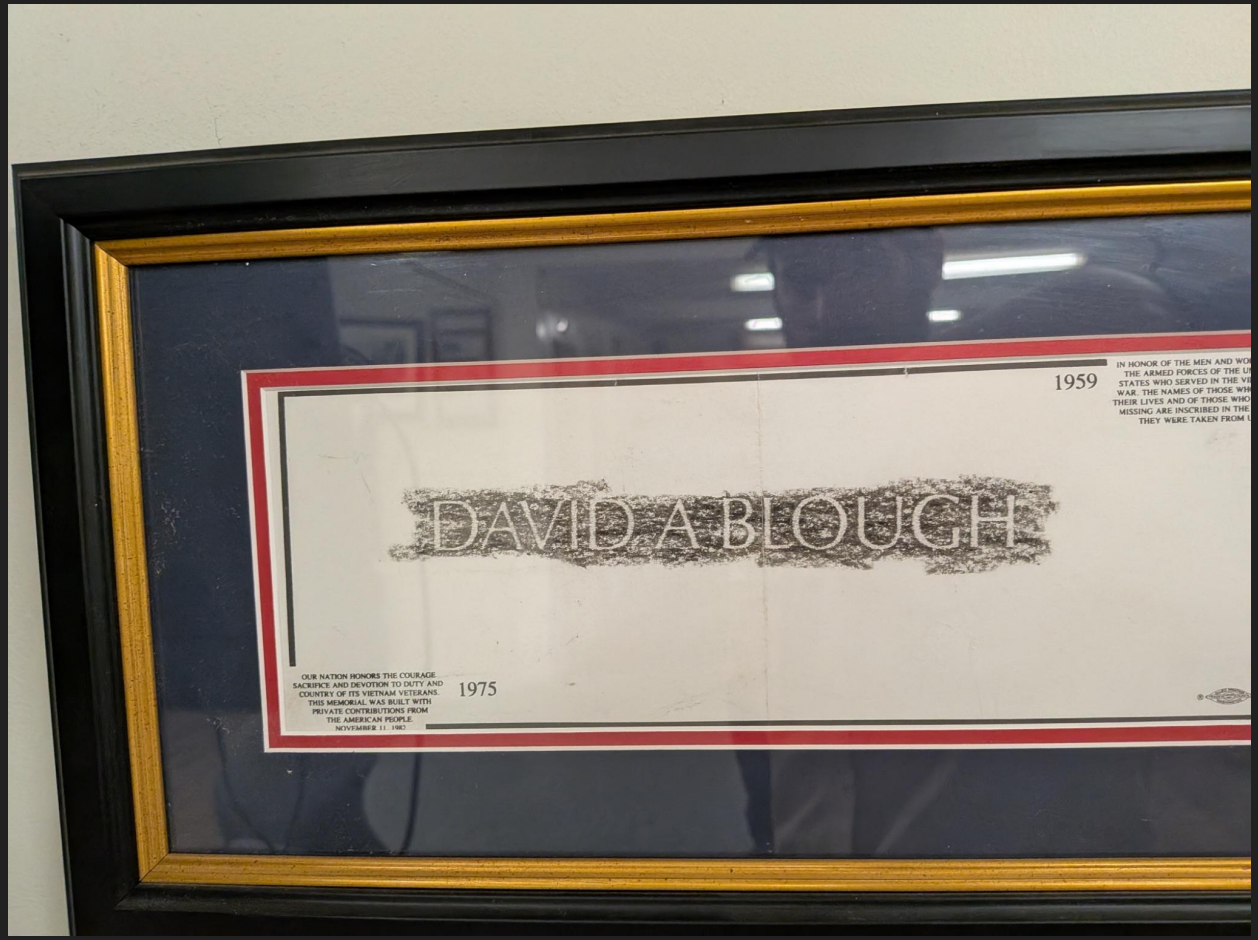
Paul D. Berthiaume




PFC David Blough
D.P.H.S. Class of 1967
Killed in Action • December 29, 1967
Quawq-tri ~ South Vietnam


KENNITH R. BENJAMIN


KENNETH BENJAMIN


1959
IN HONOR OF THE MEN AND WO
THE ARMED FORCES OF THE U
STATES WHO SERVED IN THE VI
WAR. THE NAMES OF THOSE WH
THEIR LIVES AND OF THOSE WHO
MISSING ARE INSCRIBED IN THE
THEY WERE TAKEN FROM U
DAVID A BLOUGH
OUR NATION HONORS THE COURAGE
SACRIFICE AND DEVOTION TO DUTY AND
COUNTRY OF ITS VIETNAM VETERANS.
THIS MEMORIAL WAS BUILT WITH
PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.
NOVEMBER 11 1982
1975


PAUL D BERTHIAUME

DEDICATION CEREMONIES

APRIL 25, 1975










VIETNAM
MEMORIAL
PARK

00255

00250.

Belong to Rosalona Lavoie Babbyn big day
50. Spencer
4/27/58
Rosalona Tobey Lavoie
Marion McCourt
Senator
Rep. Henk Spencer
Selectman Bill Boucher
=
John Johnson
00246

R-L 00248
Bob Bouchard
Rep. Hanry Grenier
Sen Fred Schlosstein

00254
David
Kodak paper and equipment used to produce this picture.
JUNE, 1989
Bobby Tobey
Belongs to Rosa Lavoie
Kodak paper and equipment used to produce this picture.

Spencer Schoolhouse #11

South Spencer

Memories



Seventy years ago, a tiny community created a club with the vision that it would endure the test of time. The clubs roots were in South Spencer, a small village located within Spencer, Massachusetts. Spencer is located in Worcester County, just seven miles west of Worcester. During this time, a local resident, Wanda Spooner believed there should be more unity between the residents of the village and she set out to bring the community together.

In 1932 Wanda founded the South Spencer Community Club (SSCC). Other local residents readily joined and it was not long before the SSCC had their first meeting and elected their officers. In the beginning, the group met at private homes. As membership increased, the club required more space. The members of the club partitioned the selectmen of Spencer for the use of a vacant schoolhouse to serve as a meeting place for the community. The one room schoolhouse (now listed in the National Register of Historical Sites) was centrally located in the heart of South Spencer, and had been vacant for ten years. The town agreed to give the schoolhouse to the club under the agreement that they would maintain the building and its site. Owning the school opened many doors of opportunities for the club. They now had a location to meet, an arena for their functions and a place to call home.

The group's first activity at their new locale was an engagement party and shower for a local couple. Shortly after, the community club began holding square dances, flea markets, bake sales, raffles, holiday parties and other entertainment.

Soon they began establishing annual events such as Polish Picnics, Family-Fun-Days and Christmas parties. These events offered plenty of family fun, dancing and social interaction. The club made the majority of its money by hosting suppers. They would post fliers and invite the local town's people. Because the club did not have the facilities to cook food, each member would prepare a dish at home and deliver it to the club.

The club soon realized a kitchen would help the economic success of their program. After receiving a sizable donation from a local company, club members worked together to install a functioning kitchen. Now they could cook and sell food during their activities. The members added other upgrades to the club, such as running water, a heating and septic system and other improvements. They even made the necessary repairs to the building after it was badly damaged during the hurricane of 1938.

In 1939 the members added the Sunshine Club, a subdivision of the SSCC. This new dimension was responsible for sending gifts, and throwing showers for members celebrating a marriage or birth. They also made sure flowers were delivered to members or their families who were sick or passed away. The club continued its success through the 1940's when they began the year with a masquerade ball that was attended by 150 club members and guests. In the 1950s the club acquired an abandoned railroad sign from the New York Central Railroad reading "South Spencer". The antique sign still remains over the entrance of the clubhouse today. In the 1960's the Triangle Rabbit Club became an active offshoot of the club conducting numerous rabbit and livestock shows.

During the seventies and eighties, the club was in full swing with over one hundred active members. Those involved worked extremely hard. There was always plenty to do both in front and behind the scenes. Much planning went into successfully organizing every function. The group also continued to honor their obligation of maintaining the club by mowing the lawn, plowing the snow, and making repairs. On top of everything, the members still attended meetings, produced a monthly newsletter, ran advertisements for their functions and continually brainstormed to come up with new and innovative ideas to keep the club flourishing.

One of their most successful events was the yearly Christmas party, which quickly became a neighborhood tradition. The standing room only event would bring together the neighborhood children as they acted out Christmas plays and sang carols. After the party, a member would dress as Santa Claus and deliver presents. Young and old enjoyed this local holiday custom.

Belonging to the club, gave the South Spencer residents and their families a second home. At the club they relied on each other for their amusement and social recreation. Together they enjoyed fine food, good drinks and excellent company. The members formed deep bonds with each other as they shared a mutual commitment for the well being of South Spencer. Through hard work and perseverance they had built a tiny empire that was glued together with trust and dedication. It was a wonderful social adventure for everyone involved.

The kindred spirit of the club was evident when its members dedicated the schoolhouse to Roy Gadbois, a resident of South Spencer killed during World War II, and a piece of land beside the school was dedicated to three Spencer men killed in Vietnam. The club offered non-profit organizations the use of the schoolhouse for free. They even implemented a scholarship fund that was awarded annually to a graduating high school senior.

The club continued to be active during the nineties, but after a while, membership began to dwindle. Its original members were getting older and less involved and new members were not coming onboard like they had in the past. The change seemed to fall on the newer and younger neighborhood additions who showed little interest in the club. Most of the wives had outside jobs, and families to tend to which lead to a lack of time and energy. Their social expectancy of the community was different too. They did not seem to need the support that a close community

would offer. Most openly claimed they were just too busy or simply not interested in involvement. Slowly the SSCC traditions began fading away.

What has lead to the demise of the SSCC? Today, over seventy years since its onset, membership and officer positions are difficult to fill. The club continued to trudge forward as there are still a few diehard members, but it has been over two years since the club has had any serious activity. Last year the schoolhouse was inoperative for over twelve months due to a water main break.

If only the residents of South Spencer who prefer to remain segregated from the club could have been there during the clubs successful past. They would have witnessed the joyous faces on the children as they played together during neighborhood events. They would have felt the closeness of couples as they whirled around on the dance floor cheek-to-cheek. They would have heard live bands playing music, lots of laughter and stimulating conversations. They would have smelled the sweet smell of success as the club triumphed. And most importantly, they would have observed a rare unity between locals who truly cared about each other, their families and the unity of their community. Perhaps then, they would reconsider the importance of their involvement in keeping the legacy of the SSCC alive.

Sgt Henry L. Morgan, Benson, NC (Silver Star)
Pfc David A. Blough, Spencer, MA (Silver Star)
Pfc John A. Delozier, Tucson, AZ
Pfc Leo Menendez, Spelter, WV
Pfc Steven D. Munden, Minneapolis, MN
Pfc Dennis C. Smith, Deer River, MN
Pfc Gerald W. Ziy, St Ann, MO

Silver Star Citation
David A. Blough Date of death: December 28, 1967 Home of record: Spencer Massachusetts Status: KIA AWARDS AND CITATIONS Silver Star Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War The President of the United States of America takes pride in presenting the Silver Star (Posthumously) to Private First Class David A. Blough (MCSN: 2378332), United States Marine Corps, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving with Company E, Second Battalion, Third Marines, FIRST Marine Division (Rein.), FMF, in connection with combat operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam. On December 28, 1967, during Operation AUBURN, Company E came under intense small arms, automatic weapons and grenade launcher fire from a well-entrenched force of North Vietnamese Army Regulars in Quang Nam Province. In the initial moments of the fire fight, the Marines sustained several casualties. With complete disregard for his own safety, Private First Class Blough fearlessly exposed himself to the heavy volume of fire to aid a wounded comrade. Unhesitatingly crawling across thirty meters of fire-swept terrain, he reached the side of the injured man and began to assist him to a position of relative safety. Although enemy soldiers were located within a few meters of his position and advancing toward him, he steadfastly refused to abandon his comrade and continued his determined efforts to assist the casualty to the Marine defensive perimeter until mortally wounded by fragments from an exploding enemy hand grenade. His resolute determination and sincere

died 16 days later as a result of fragmentation wounds to the head and body from an NVA explosive device, at LZ Hawk, Bao An Dong, Go Noi Island, Quang Nam Province, during Operation Auburn.

David served his country for 5 months and 29 days. KIA # 19,494. He was 18 years, 9 months, 20 days old. David is survived by his mother, Marion Meili Blough, and sister, Cindy Marie, of 90 Alvarado Avenue, Spencer, MA; his stepfather, Donald Francis Blough; and three Blough stepsisters, Barbara Kay, Beth Ann and Cara Lee.

Operation Auburn, conducted Dec 28, 1967 through Jan 3, 1968 on Go Noi Island, Quang Nam Province, was primarily a 5th Marines operation, but E Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, was attached to 3/5 Marines to provide an extra rifle company. Go Noi Island was infested with North Vietnamese regulars and Viet Cong main and local forces, and very heavy fighting resulted when the Marines engaged fortified NVA and VC elements.

Echo 2/3 lost 12 men killed in action on 28 December:
SSgt Salome Hernandez, Anthony, NM
Cpl Robert L. Boyer, Long Beach, CA (Silver Star)
Cpl Richard L. Carlson, Montclair, NJ
Cpl James B. Cox, Washington, WV
LCpl Patrick E. Anglim, Long Beach, CA
LCpl Carl E. Chamberlain, Nashville, TN
Pfc Byron A. Gaines, Jacksonville, FL (Silver Star)
Pfc Thomas B. Holdbrooks, McKinney, TX
Pfc Arturo M. Lara, Los Angeles, CA
Pfc Ronald J. Streckert, Chilton, WI
Pfc Ernesto Tarango, Los Angeles, CA
Pfc Herbert O. Zinnel, Dakota City, IA

And seven more on 29 December:



West Main Street School. The cupola that housed the school bell was removed after being severely damaged in the 1938 hurricane.

school time was lost. Maple Street had served as the junior high school until the addition to the old high school was built in 1937.

West Main Street School suffered fire damage October 13, 1940, from a fire that started in the boiler room. Repairs cost $1,431.34.

A section of the school roof was ripped off in a storm February 19, 1972. The damage set off the building's sprinkler system, causing extensive water damage. Students attended classes at the American Legion and in the basement of the Holy Rosary Church, and did not return to the school until September of 1972.

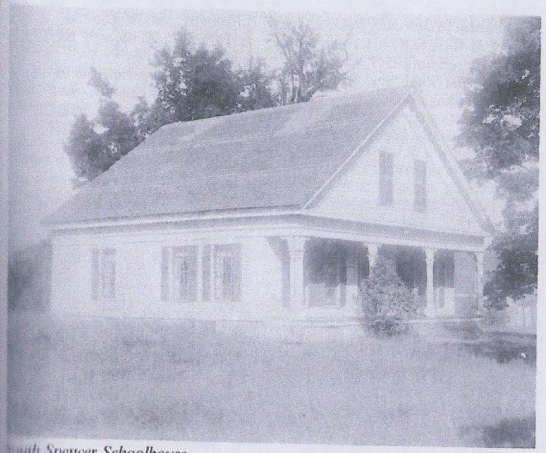
School No. 10: In 1812 this school was located on the west side of Cranberry Meadow Road, just north of where the railroad tracks cross the road. This was known as the "Pine Wood" school. Before 1812 the school had been located "in the middle of a pasture about a half mile west" of this location. This building was replaced at least once before it burned to the ground in the summer of 1874. The fire was thought to have been set by tramps who traveled the railroad close by. A new school 24 x 30 feet was built by Samuel Barnes & Co. for $772.91.

This school was destroyed by fire in 1893. Again tramps were thought to have caused the fire as they often frequented the school at night coming from the

railroad tracks. When a replacement was built, a new location was chosen away from the tracks and these unwelcome boarders. The new school was built on the south side of Hebert Road west of the crossroads with Bemis and Cranberry Meadow Roads.

The school continued operating until 1912, when the school's longtime teacher Miss Estelle Drury resigned after the fall term. Mrs. Arthur Monroe was hired to replace her and the school committee intended to keep the school open. However, by December with only eight students attending the school, they reconsidered and closed the school, sending the students to the South Spencer and center schools.

At a special town meeting in October of 1929 it was voted to allow the school committee to sell the school. The next month the school and lot were sold to Max Rosenstein. After the sale Mrs. Estelle Drury Steadman, the former teacher at the school, said that former students of the school would have raised money to buy and preserve the school had they known the school was going to be sold so quickly.



South Spencer Schoolhouse.

School No. 11: This school was located on the west side of South Spencer Road just north of where Howe Brook crosses the road. In the town report for the year ending March 1, 1878, it is reported that there were seventy students for forty-eight seats at the school. A new schoolhouse was recommended for the depot village in

Prouty began making boots in this village, and his house still stands just south of Barclay Road. It has been reported that Prouty wanted to buy an additional four acres of land to the rear of his house and build a boot factory. However, the owner wanted too high a price and Prouty moved to the center of town, thus curtailing the village's growth.

Proutyville: This is Lower Wire Village, named for the Prouty wire mills that were later purchased by Richard Sugden.

Smithville: This village, near the junction of Smithville Road and Woodside Road, was named for the several familes of Smiths who lived there.

South Spencer: South Spencer is located near the junction of Lyford and South Spencer Roads. This village still maintains its identity. The village grew around the railroad depot established when the railroad came to Spencer in the 1840's.

The South Spencer Community Club has kept alive the sense of a separate village. The club was originally organized by Mrs. Wanda Spooner in 1932 and met in private homes in the village. Soon after the club's organization, the South Spencer School was shut down and club members petitioned the selectmen for use of the building as a meeting place. Permission was granted with the agreement that the Club would maintain the building. In late 1932, the South Spencer Community Club began using the schoolhouse as a clubhouse. Running water, a heating system, a kitchen and other improvements were made to the building by the club.

The group's first activity was an engagement party and shower for Mr. and Mrs. Emery Brunelle. The Community Club held dances, husking bees, and other entertainments through the 1930's. The 1940's began with a masquerade ball at the school that was attended by 150 club members and guests.

In 1951 the club acquired from the New York Central Railroad the sign that had hung on the abandoned South Spencer Depot. Representative Philip A. Quinn was instrumental in getting the sign, which was hung over the doorway of the clubhouse.

In the 1960's the Triangle Rabbit Club was active as an offshoot of the South Spencer Community Club. Robert F. Fahey was active in the organization, and in the Community Fair that was held at the schoolhouse in the early 1970's.

In August of 1972, the schoolhouse was dedicated to Roy Gadbois, a resident of the village, killed in World War II.

A piece of land beside the school was dedicated on April 27, 1975, as Vietnam Memorial Park. The park was dedicated to the three Spencer men: Kenneth Benjamin, Paul Berthiaume, and David Blough, who were killed in Vietnam.

Sugdenville: This is another name for Upper Wire Village. The wire mills of Richard Sugden were located only in this village until he bought the Prouty Wire Mills in Lower Wire Village.

Westvillle: This village was located on Route 9 between the Seven Mile River and the East Brookfield line. A tavern, several houses, and a woolen mill on the Seven Mile River comprised Westville.

LOCALITIES

These have all but disappeared. Of little historical importance, they may aid the reader of early newspapers or local history.

Breezy Bend: Located on Route 9 just over the line in Leicester. The original "bend" has been taken out of the highway.

Canada: The south side of the downtown area of Spencer; roughly south of Cherry, Wall, and Valley Streets, and west of Maple and Ash Streets. Chestnut Street could be called the "Main Street" of this area. It was named for the French-Canadians who settled in this area. As they gained economic and political power, the term disappeared from the local newspapers.

Christian Hill: Main Street hill that crests at Lake Street. Sometimes the summit of this hill is considered to be in back of Lake Street School.

Hall's Point: The area near Pine, Vine, Beach Streets and Fourth Avenue. Elias Hall hoped to develop the area at the end of the last century. It proved to be too far from the center to attract buyers.

Hemlock Gutter: The low spot just east of Donnelly Road on Route 9. A problem area in the early days of the highway because of mud and water.

Lamb's Grove: Located on the north side of Sugden Reservoir.

Ludden's Corner: The junction of Northwest and Brooks Pond Roads.

Proctor's Corner: The junction of Route 9 and Donnelly Road. Named for the Proctor family who had a farm on the west corner of the intersection.

Skunk Hollow: The area at the bottom of School Street hill.

Sherman's Grove: Located on the west side of Sugden Reservoir.

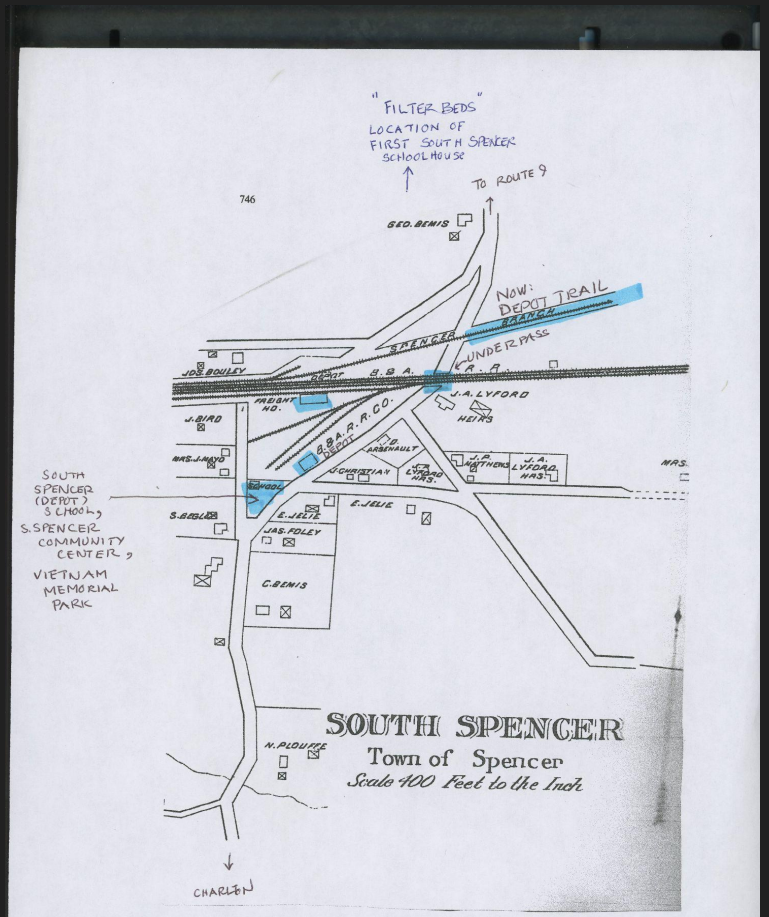
Sumner Hill: Lower Main Street, from Sumner Street west to the bottom of the hill.

Taft's Corner: The junction of Route 9 and Bond Street. Named for the Taft family who had a farm at the west corner of the intersection.

FEATURES NATURAL AND UNNATURAL

Balancing Rock: This large boulder weighing several tons can be rocked back and forth quite easily. It is located one hundred yards south of Rich's Pond of Greenville Street.

Morgan's Swamp: Once a pond built by Andrew Morgan, Jr., this large, marshy area is located south of Rich's or Silas's Pond. South of the swamp, and connected with it by a stream, is a pond built by the Spencer Sportsman's Club.


"FILTER BEDS"
LOCATION OF FIRST SOUTH SPENCER SCHOOLHOUSE
TO ROUTE 9
746
GEO. BENIS
NOW: DEPOT TRAIL
SPENCER BRANCH
UNDERPASS
JOS. BOULEY
DEPOT
B. & A.
C. V. R.
FREIGHT HO.
J. A. LYFORD
HEIRS
J. BIRD
B&A R.R. CO.
DEPOT
ARSENAULT
J. P. MATHEWS
J. A. LYFORD HRS.
J. CHRISTIAN
LYFORD HRS.
MRS. J. MAYO
SCHOOL
E. JELIE
S. BEGLEY
JAS. FOLEY
C. BENIS
N. PLOUFFE
SOUTH SPENCER (DEPT.) SCHOOL,
S. SPENCER COMMUNITY CENTER,
VIETNAM MEMORIAL PARK
CHARLTON
SOUTH SPENCER
Town of Spencer
Scale 400 Feet to the Inch

Prouty began making boots in this village, and his house still stands just south of Barclay Road. It has been reported that Prouty wanted to buy an additional four acres of land to the rear of his house and build a boot factory. However, the owner wanted too high a price and Prouty moved to the center of town, thus curtailing the village's growth.

Proutyville: This is Lower Wire Village, named for the Prouty wire mills that were later purchased by Richard Sugden.

Smithville: This village, near the junction of Smithville Road and Woodside Road, was named for the several familes of Smiths who lived there.

South Spencer: South Spencer is located near the junction of Lyford and South Spencer Roads. This village still maintains its identity. The village grew around the railroad depot established when the railroad came to Spencer in the 1840's.

The South Spencer Community Club has kept alive the sense of a separate village. The club was originally organized by Mrs. Wanda Spooner in 1932 and met in private homes in the village. Soon after the club's organization, the South Spencer School was shut down and club members petitioned the selectmen for use of the building as a meeting place. Permission was granted with the agreement that the Club would maintain the building. In late 1932, the South Spencer Community Club began using the schoolhouse as a clubhouse. Running water, a heating system, a kitchen and other improvements were made to the building by the club.

The group's first activity was an engagement party and shower for Mr. and Mrs. Emery Brunelle. The Community Club held dances, husking bees, and other entertainments through the 1930's. The 1940's began with a masquerade ball at the school that was attended by 150 club members and guests.

In 1951 the club acquired from the New York Central Railroad the sign that had hung on the abandoned South Spencer Depot. Representative Philip A. Quinn was instrumental in getting the sign, which was hung over the doorway of the clubhouse.

In the 1960's the Triangle Rabbit Club was active as an offshoot of the South Spencer Community Club. Robert F. Fahey was active in the organization, and in the Community Fair that was held at the schoolhouse in the early 1970's.

In August of 1972, the schoolhouse was dedicated to Roy Gadbois, a resident of the village, killed in World War II.

A piece of land beside the school was dedicated on April 27, 1975, as Vietnam Memorial Park. The park was dedicated to the three Spencer men: Kenneth Benjamin, Paul Berthiaume, and David Blough, who were killed in Vietnam.

Sugdenville: This is another name for Upper Wire Village. The wire mills of Richard Sugden were located only in this village until he bought the Prouty Wire Mills in Lower Wire Village.

Westvillle: This village was located on Route 9 between the Seven Mile River and the East Brookfield line. A tavern, several houses, and a woolen mill on the Seven Mile River comprised Westville.

LOCALITIES

These have all but disappeared. Of little historical importance, they may aid the reader of early newspapers or local history.

Breezy Bend: Located on Route 9 just over the line in Leicester. The original "bend" has been taken out of the highway.

Canada: The south side of the downtown area of Spencer; roughly south of Cherry, Wall, and Valley Streets, and west of Maple and Ash Streets. Chestnut Street could be called the "Main Street" of this area. It was named for the French-Canadians who settled in this area. As they gained economic and political power, the term disappeared from the local newspapers.

Christian Hill: Main Street hill that crests at Lake Street. Sometimes the summit of this hill is considered to be in back of Lake Street School.

Hall's Point: The area near Pine, Vine, Beach Streets and Fourth Avenue. Elias Hall hoped to develop the area at the end of the last century. It proved to be too far from the center to attract buyers.

Hemlock Gutter: The low spot just east of Donnelly Road on Route 9. A problem area in the early days of the highway because of mud and water.

Lamb's Grove: Located on the north side of Sugden Reservoir.

Ludden's Corner: The junction of Northwest and Brooks Pond Roads.

Proctor's Corner: The junction of Route 9 and Donnelly Road. Named for the Proctor family who had a farm on the west corner of the intersection.

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