



Members Quarterly Newsletter

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Pittsfield Historical Society
13 Elm Street
Pittsfield, NH 03263
603-435-8004

Pittsfield, New Hampshire – The Gem of the Suncook Valley
Liz Dimmick & Bill Provençal, co-editors

Historical Society Gets Its New Roof

The museum is now leak free—thanks to the wizards at Century Roofing from Dunbarton, NH, who completed the job in one day! To date we have raised over \$4,000 of the \$9,200 total cost. A big THANK YOU goes out to our contributors. However, we still need to raise \$5,200. Please mail your donations to the Pittsfield Historical Society, PO Box 173, Pittsfield NH 03263 or come by the Society any Tuesday between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Raffle Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the Historical Society's Annual Raffle

Eli English	\$100
Cindy Houle	\$ 75
Alex Gentile	\$ 75
Robin Dragonetti	\$ 50

Many thanks to everyone who purchased a ticket. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Accessions



Team of wooden oxen pulling a sled with a rock—preparing for local fairs. Carved by Charlie Watson. Donated Joann Bailey, Northwood, NH.



Miniature corn liquor souvenir jug. Donated by Barbara Rowland, Pepperell, MA.

Thanks to everyone who has recently donated items to the Historical Society. We have received a wide variety of interesting accessions.

Almost Finished!

You may have noticed the changes on the outside of the Historical Society. As you may recall, it was very difficult to maintain the sides of the building since it is tucked in between two other structures. To preserve this historic structure, it was decided to install siding on the three sides and maintain the original wood on the front. Ray Webber has been working on installing new siding and refurbishing the exterior of the building. He recently had to remove the bottom three feet on the right side of the building because of dry rot. New cellar windows were installed, as well as



new insulation and siding. This update will certainly help to preserve a Pittsfield landmark.

Jonas Glidden—A Tour of Pittsfield



Jonas Glidden, a former teacher at Pittsfield High/Middle School, was most welcomed by former students, teachers, and friends when he presented an old-fashioned slide presentation of Pittsfield in the 1980s. At that time Pittsfield was seeking reaccreditation of the high school, and Jonas was selected to highlight the numerous features of Pittsfield and the high school. Not only were we able to see the “formal” presentation that was given in the ‘80s, but we were privileged to see the numerous casual shots and the “behind the scenes” stories. Many people who attended walked down memory lane and shared other stories of friendship—and mischief.

History of Pittsfield’s Annual Calendar

Did you ever wonder how the Pittsfield Historical Society developed the yearly calendar which depicts various scenes and stories of Pittsfield? The history of the pictorial calendar started with the Anglican Church in England. To raise funds, the Ladies of the Anglican Church produced a calendar with tastefully posed nudes of women. However, all these women were over 65! Of course there were stories and some scandalous gossip, but it raised funds.

Larry Berkson and Bill Provencal presented a very informative and humorous history of the Historical Society’s calendar. Although, there are no nudes, the calendar, started in 2003, is based on a theme: locations, events, or topics. The calendar is a major fund raiser for the Historical Society and is a source of pride for the people of Pittsfield.

The program, developed in conjunction with the Josiah Carpenter Library and the Pittsfield Area Senior Center, was a well attended event.

Clean-up Day at Lyman Park

A small, but dedicated crew of four—Cedric Dustin, Bill Provencal, Ray Webber and Daniel Welch—cleaned up Lyman Park in preparation for winter. Luckily, Daniel had a powerful leaf blower which helped move the leaves and debris to the sidewalk so the men were able to load Ray’s truck for disposal. It’s nice to see the colorful leaves on the trees and enjoy the crisp fall air, but it’s always work to prepare for winter. Thanks to everyone!



Ray Webber on Clean-Up Day

Pittsfield’s Canning Industry



Many thanks to Betty Farnum Gould for her detailed compilation of information on Pittsfield’s Corn Industry. At a recent meeting, Martha Moley graciously presented highlights from this diary on the Cream Style Corn Canning Company. Numerous people in the audience shared their own experiences working on the various jobs; many of them humorous, most of them fond memories.

Because of the harvest season, students were excused from school for 4 to 6 weeks in the fall to help in Pittsfield’s robust industry. Farmers had to follow a schedule of planting and harvesting dictated by the canning company so all the crops didn’t mature at the same time; but it was still a very busy season, with long days of work.

The different grades of corn were sorted, labeled, and then sent to various well-known stores: A & P, IGA, to name a few.

With the growth of the Midwest farms, the small family farms in the East couldn’t compete—with the size of the harvests and the cost of growing—so Pittsfield Canning Company closed its doors. But the memories remain.