

# Members Quarterly Newsletter

Issue XXXV  
1st Quarter March 2016

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

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

## Accessions



**E. Harold Young's Legislator chair**

The Museum recently acquired the chair used by E. Harold Young while he served in the State House of Representatives. Mr. Young, born in Kansas, moved to Pittsfield in 1936. He was a World War II Navy veteran, a professor of journalism, and served as Pittsfield selectman, 1944 – 1948. In addition to these accomplishments, he wrote the very extensive History of Pittsfield which was published in 1953.

## Update on the Historical Society Museum Siding

The renovations on the Historical Society are now complete. New siding, new insulation, and new cellar windows on three sides of the Historical Society have been installed. But as with any project on an older building, there were unexpected problems and unexpected costs.

The Society is asking for donations to cover the shortfall of approximately \$6,000. If you would like to help us, please contact the Society at 603-435-8004, stop by our building on 13 Elm Street, or mail your donation to Pittsfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 173, Pittsfield, NH 03263. We are open to the public every Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Thank you for your continued support!

## Ruth Strickhart

For almost a decade, Ruth Strickhart has been volunteering her time and efforts in support of the Pittsfield Historical Society. She is a loyal member of the Tuesday Morning Crew and faithfully shows up at the Museum on Tuesday mornings to work on various projects, including large amounts of computer data entry. She is greatly appreciated by her co-workers for her ever-present smile and quick wit, and she vows every week to return "if the good Lord's willin' and the creek don't rise."



A surprise celebration was recently held to thank Ruth for her many years of service and to celebrate her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday. Under the guise of 'going out for some dessert,' Ruth was escorted to the Historical Society Museum where about two dozen family members, Society Board members and friends waited in ambush. Through a generous donation by Pat and Randy Dow, members of Ruth's family, a portable display rack was purchased by the Society and dedicated to Ruth. It now bears a plaque reading: "In honor of Ruth Strickhart for her many years of dedicated service to the Pittsfield Historical Society. Donated by Pat and Randy Dow in 2015, the year of Ruth's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday." Following the dedication, everyone enjoyed food, beverages and a cake provided by Society members. So, in the end, Ruth did get the promised dessert!

We wish Ruth a wonderful 96<sup>th</sup> year and look forward to seeing her on Tuesdays at the Museum, "If the good Lord's willin' and the creek don't rise."

## Future Programs

### Pittsfield's Town Clock



Photo by Diane Vaughan

Did you ever check the time on the Town Clock located at the First Congregational Church on Main Street? Did you ever wonder why the Town Clock is on a church? Please join us at the Historical Society Museum to learn more about the history, operation, and maintenance of our Town Clock! Program will be presented by Harry Vogt.

Thursday, May 12, 2016  
7:00 p.m.  
Historical Society Museum

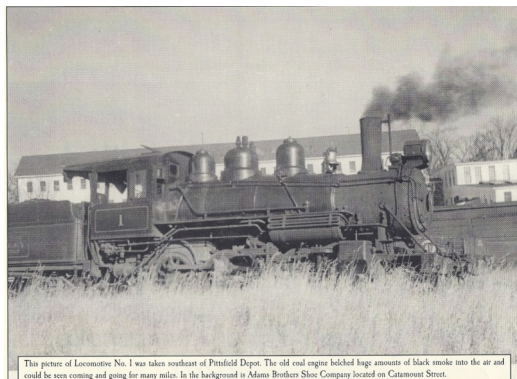
### Blueberry Express

Come join us for a nostalgic, pictorial ride on the Blueberry Express (Suncook Valley Railroad). Learn about or remember the well-known train as it delivered milk, mail, passengers, and—of course—blueberries.

The train's first run in 1869 from Pittsfield to Suncook was heralded as a great triumph for the local industry as a more efficient way to transport goods.

Bring your photographs, stories, and memorabilia to share as we remember Pittsfield's Blueberry Express!

Wednesday, June 8, 2016  
7:00 p.m.  
Historical Society Museum



This picture of Locomotive No. 1 was taken southeast of Pittsfield Depot. The old coal engine belched huge amounts of black smoke into the air and could be seen coming and going for many miles. In the background is Adams Brothers Shoe Company located on Catamount Street.

## Membership

### Membership—You Can Help

Do you know anyone who is interested in the history of Pittsfield or who wants to learn about his hometown, or who wants to support the work of the Historical Society? We're always looking for members for continued support and involvement. Contact the Historical Society at 435-8004 or visit the website for more information. [www.pittsfieldhistory.com](http://www.pittsfieldhistory.com)

<b>Pittsfield Historical Society, Inc.</b> 13 Elm Street Pittsfield, NH 03263	Name	_____
	Address	_____
	Telephone No.	_____
	Email Address	_____
	DUES FOR _____ ARE NOW PAYABLE.	
<i>Please</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student Membership	\$ 5.00
<i>Check</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership	\$ 10.00
<i>Membership</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Husband/Wife Membership	\$ 15.00
<i>Level:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Membership	\$ 25.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Membership	\$ 50.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Membership	\$ 100.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron Membership	\$ 250.00
Make checks payable to: Pittsfield Historical Society Mail to: P.H.S., Inc. • Treasurer • P.O. Box 173 • Pittsfield, NH 03263		

### **When It Began By Larry Berkson**

On May 14, 1913, suffragettes made their way to Pittsfield and presented a program in the vestry of the Congregational Church, arguing in favor of granting women the right to vote. They emphasized that it was a requisite for liberty. The bias of *The Valley Times* newspaper was revealed by a note announcing the event: "Be sure to hear them. If you are a suffragette, you will surely go; if you are an 'anti' go and be convinced.

("Suffragettes' Demonstration," *The Valley Times*, May 2, 1913)

### Board of Directors—2016

Gail Allard  
Liz Dimmick  
Cedric Dustin III  
Thomas Freese  
David Harper  
Martha Moloy

William Provencal  
Mark Riel  
Marilyn Thyng  
Ray Webber  
Sabra Welch  
Clayton Wood