



Members Quarterly Newsletter

Issue XXXIII
3rd Quarter Sept. 2015

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

Aquisitions



Toothbrush Holder from
A. W. Sanders Store
Donated by Joan Riel

Retailers for years have tried to create loyal customers. Before the digital age, customers were given pencils, rulers, magnets and even golf tees with the company's name and logo inscribed on them. They are handy and useful objects that remind customers and potential customers about a store or product.

However, A.W. Sanders Store in Pittsfield tried a very different way of attracting customers. This store gave away a Toothbrush Holder! Here is an item everyone sees at least once a day. It probably didn't match the décor of the bathroom, but the frugal people of Pittsfield realized it was useful and it was free!



Front of Girouard's

A.W. Sanders was a variety store located in the building currently occupied by Town Pizza—27 Carroll Street. After A.W. Sanders closed, Girouard's opened.

Historical Society Needs a New Roof

The Pittsfield Historical Museum is in need of a new roof. A leak was discovered and your ancestor's artifacts are in danger. The Society is asking for contributions towards this endeavor. Approximately \$9,200 is needed. If you would like to contribute, 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. Please help the Society to keep a roof over their heads. Thank you for your continued support!



Damaged Documents



Eleanor Joyce and Nancy Fogg Restoring Damaged Documents

History of the Pittsfield Players

Did you know the first performance of the Pittsfield Players was “You Can’t Take It With You”? Maye Hart, Meggin Dail and Maureen Van Horn provided entertaining and informative snapshots of what life in the theater was like when the Pittsfield Players was a small but determined and enthusiastic group. The travails they endured: cold rehearsal rooms; steep stairs to climb before an audition; and later a “green room” located next door to the theater in a hair salon.



The Pittsfield Players currently occupy a building originally built by the G.A.R. (Civil War Soldiers) in 1914. It was purchased in 1925 by the American Legion, which held meetings on the upper floors. On the lower level was the “The Liberty Theater,” a local movie theater. The building was later purchased by Arthur and Vaulien Dame, enthusiastic supporters of the theater. They continued to show movies but rented the stage to the Players for the various performances. However, to accommodate the actors, a makeshift temporary stage was built which extended over the first rows of seats. Remember, a movie screen doesn’t require much room. An additional benefit, however, was that the actors used Vaulien Dame’s hair salon next door to apply makeup and it provided an easier way to enter the stage!

The Pittsfield Players staged numerous theatricals, including: *Not Enough Rope*; *The Fantastiks*; *The Crucible*; and *Butterflies are Free*.

When It Began

By Larry Berkson

In October of 1889, one of the first, if not the first, balloon launches occurred in Pittsfield during the Suncook Valley Fair at the local trotting park. Spectators had to wait several hours for the launch to begin because of high winds, an occurrence witnessed by thousands of spectators during recent balloon rallies which began in 1982. (“Suncock Valley Fair,” *The Analecta*, October 11, 1889 and November 7, 1889; *Concord Monitor*, August 7, 1982)

Open House at the Historical Museum

The Pittsfield Historical Museum is opened every Tuesday, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Stop by to see the various exhibits highlighting Pittsfield’s past, peruse the numerous documents, or ask a question. If we don’t have an immediate answer, we’ll try to find it.

Membership—You Can Help

Do you know anyone who is interested in the history of Pittsfield or who wants to learn about his or her 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

Future Programs

Pittsfield’s Golden Years
Memories of the Canning Factory: 1931 to 1965

Pittsfield was one of only four New Hampshire towns to have a “corn shop.” Not familiar with a “corn shop”? Remember when or learn about the New England sweet corn industry at the meeting in October. Bring your photographs, stories and memorabilia to share. There will be refreshments and a special door prize.

Wednesday, October 14, at the undercroft of St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, starting at 7:00 p.m.

Thanks to All!

Thanks to all who helped at Old Home Day and at the Balloon Festival. These two fun events provide an opportunity to showcase the Historical Society as a source of information and for the Society to raise much needed funds.

Special thanks to our volunteers who mow the lawn at Lyman Park. They include: Gail and Jim Allard; Cedric Dustin; Fuzz Freeze; David Harper; Jenn and Brian Mika; Martha and Richard Moloy; Linda and Bill Provencal; Mark Riel; Judy and Ray Webber; and Daniel Welch.

Thanks to Jonas Glidden for the donation of an audiovisual cart.

Do You Have?

The Historical Society is looking for copies of the 2000, 2001, and 2013 Town Reports. If you have a copy and would like to donate it to the Museum, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.