

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 Provencal, co-editors

Accessions



Many thanks to Ralph Eckhardt for donating numerous signs of former Pittsfield businesses. The one in this picture is from a machine shop formerly on Tilton Hill Road.

2017 Calendars—Now On Sale

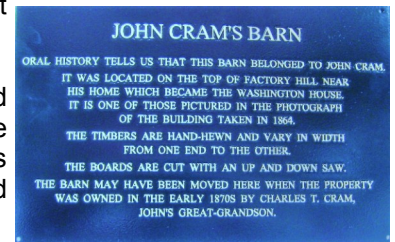


The theme for the Historical Society's 2017 calendar is Pittsfield Organizations throughout the years. The groups shown are just a handful of the many organizations Pittsfield has hosted. Some people are still not identified, so if you recognize someone, please let us know. The calendars are currently available at the Town Hall and at the Historical Museum. Cost is still \$10.

New Historical Marker

The Pittsfield Historical Society recently placed a plaque on Allan Donovan's barn because of its age and significance to the town. Oral history tells us that the barn once belonged to John Cram. Although the date that it was erected has been lost to history, it was at a very early time.

The timbers are hand-hewn and vary in width from one end to another. The boards were cut with an up and down saw.



The barn was originally attached to the Washington House at the top of Factory Hill as shown in a picture taken in 1864. It may have been moved to Mr. Donovan's house sometime before 1877 or between 1877 and 1879 when the property was owned by Charles T. Cram, John Cram's great-grandson.

Planting Day at Lyman Park

Thanks to all the volunteers who spent their Saturday morning in dirt and mulch to clean and plant Lyman Park. The park is now a colorful oasis with plants donated by Pleasant View Gardens. Volunteers included Cedric Dustin, Liz Dimmick, "Fuzz" Freese, Mark Riel, Marilyn Thyng, Ray and Judy Webber, and Clayton Wood. Thanks for a job well done!



Volunteers: Ray Webber, Marilyn Thyng and Clayton Wood

History of Pittsfield's Town Clock

Many thanks go to Harry Vogt for a very entertaining and informative presentation on Pittsfield's Town Clock and a fun challenge to raise funds for the Museum's roof repair. The clock, which is six feet in diameter, is one of a few purely mechanical clocks still operational. A mechanical clock operates on a system of weights and pulleys and must be wound every week. It takes between 4 to 6 minutes to wind it. Twice a year when the hour must be changed for daylight savings time, two people are required; one to change the clock's mechanism and another person outside watching the clock to see if the time is correct. The video, produced by Harry Vogt, clearly shows the weekly trek up open stairs and steeply slanted ladders a person must traverse to reach the mechanisms that operate the clock.



Harry not only explained the history of the clock, but also included the background of the church bell whose hourly chime has guided the people of Pittsfield in their daily lives. This bell crashed to the ground in 1867, falling through the bell tower and the roof. It was returned to its place in 1872, but in 1876, the wooden church burned to the ground and the bell again tumbled. No bell could withstand two crashes so it was recast and hung in the new church building. This video can be seen on You Tube, Harry Vogt.

Future Program

Cider

New Hampshire's "Official Beverage"

Celebrate with us the history of cider in New England and our own local cider mill. Laurie Houle will have films of the local mill in operation. Bring your favorite recipes, photographs and memories. Join other cider lovers to enjoy this tasty program. Refreshments featuring cider will be served. There will also be a special door prize for one lucky person.

Wednesday

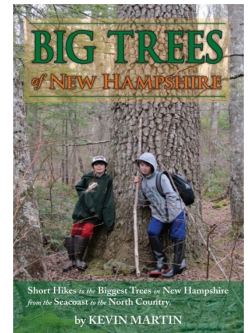
October 12, 2016
Undercroft
at St. Stephen's
Episcopal
Church
7:00 p.m.



Future Program

Hikers, Trekkers, and Tree Lovers

Kevin Martin, author of Big Trees of New Hampshire: Short Hikes to the Biggest Trees in the state from the Seacoast to the North country, will take us on a tour through the woods and some New Hampshire cities exploring the state's wooded heritage. Some of the highlights include the state's largest northern white cedars in Clarksville, and the horse chestnut tree in Portsmouth that was planted by a signer of the Declaration of Independence in 1776! Mr. Martin will also be offering copies of his book for sale.



Wednesday September 14, 2016
Historical Society Museum, 13 Elm Street
7:00 p.m.

She's A Lady!

You remember our last story about the leaks in the roof and the soup in the pot? Well, the Pittsfield Historical Society has a new tale:

So, the Lady got a new chapeau
Which has kept her nice and dry;
But certainly you know how women are
When their looks aim toward the sky?
She decided she needed a nice new coat
To complete her beautiful hat,
So up went the vinyl on all three sides
And you would think: that would be that.

Alas, the siding is done and it looks brand new
But you know that it cost a lot,
The leaks are gone and the foundation's firm,
But there's nary a bone in the pot.
So, dear friends, we ask you again
To help pay off her debt,
As you can see we've come a long way
But we're not out of the woods as yet.

Four thousand five hundred twelve and fifty
Is the amount that's left to pay
A few pennies here and a few dollars there
Would certainly make our day.
So, dear friends, we're relying on you,
And you know that we thank you a lot,
You've helped us before, and we're asking again
To please put some soup in our pot.

Thanking you in advance for supporting our well-dress Lady, our Museum. Donations may be mailed (or dropped off at the Museum) and checks made payable to: Pittsfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 173, Pittsfield, NH 02363. (Thanks to Martha Moloy for her creative, She's a Lady!)