



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

Martha Moloy and Bill Provencal, co-editors

WHEN IT BEGAN by Larry Berkson

The first "Citizen of the Year" was chosen by a mystery panel of individuals in 1957. Winner, Pearl Osgood, was feted at a dance in Greenleaf Auditorium at Pittsfield High School. Music was supplied by Doc Carpenter and his 14-piece orchestra. The tradition continues today, but the dance has been eliminated and the winner is honored during the Old Home Day Parade. (*The Valley Times*, January 18 and February 1, 1957)

John and Abigail Cram Information provided by Larry Berkson



Larry writes: These pictures are copies of photographs taken by Henry Osgood of John and Abigail Cram, town founders. I have been looking for them for over 30 years. I knew of their existence because they

were reported as lost during the first Old Home Day celebration in 1901. They were found in Ruth Cram's house by her children after she passed away this summer. Sherry Cram, one of her daughters, informed me that Linden, Ruth's son, had them so I called him and he was very cooperative about letting me make copies.

Congregational Church

The Society worked with the First



Congregational Church of Pittsfield to help celebrate its 225th Anniversary. Several items from the museum were displayed during the self-guided historical tour of the church on Saturday, November 1. There were docents at seven stations to provide information about items of historical interest.

2014 October Program

The October program was a "Show & Tell," reminiscent of our grade-school days.

Everyone in attendance brought something interesting to share, and we all learned a lot about old Pittsfield and history in general. Some presentations were serious, and some brought laughter and smiles to everyone. Items included a piece of pottery reputed to have been made in Pittsfield, Colonel J. Frank Drake's Army uniform cap, old Pittsfield photos, a toy steam shovel, and a buggy whip. Of special note were photos of sketches of Mr. and Mrs. John Cram, founders of Pittsfield. Fuzz Freese even brought along an old sign from the days of the B&M Company's creamed-corn operation in town. Following the presentations and discussion, all enjoyed the refreshments of local cider, cookies and pumpkin bread. It was concluded that we should have another night of Show & Tell in the coming year.

Accessions



A 125-year-old paint box was given to the Society. The box originally belonged to Ellen (Nell) Cram, born circa 1850, and the wife of Lewis Porter. The youngest child in a family of 7, she lived in the house now occupied by Earl M. Elliott, on Tilton Hill. She was the

great granddaughter of John Cram. The paint box was donated to us by Sherry Cram.



Pittsfield High School jacket awarded to Kevin (Dippa) Riel who scored his 1,000th point in a game at Hopkinton. The

jacket was donated by Kevin.

Pittsfield Historical Society Launches New Website

www.pittsfieldhistory.com

We are pleased to announce our own website: pittsfieldhistory.com. For years, the Pittsfield Historical Society has had an Internet presence on the town's website, and we thank the town and website committee for their donation of time and service. The new website allows for a more personal experience, with a simplified menu focused on the society's program, mission and dedication. One of the main goals in creating our own site was to help our members get to know the society better, as well as provide a medium to share the historical knowledge that the society has compiled. Among the features are a summary of Programs & Events on the home page, and a subscription service to newsletters and notices from the society. Soon to come will be items for sale by the society, and searchable database for historical and genealogical research. We hope that you will visit our new website. While you are there, please take time to let us know what you think by sending us an email at website@pittsfieldhistory.com. We are quite proud of it and will continue to improve the site, so we greatly appreciate your comments. Don't forget to sign up for our mailing list to receive our newsletters and notices by email. We look forward to hearing from you and as always "thank you for helping us preserve Pittsfield's past."