



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

Bill Provencal, editor

WHEN IT BEGAN by Larry Berkson

Pittsfield Academy was erected in 1930 on land donated by James Joy, owner of the Cotton Mill. Over 2000 pupils attended before its closing toward the end of the century. Many of its graduates went onto college at Dartmouth and became nationally famous individuals, such as John Swett, the California educator and Thomas W. Knox, the most popular author of boys travelogues during the Nineteenth Century

SIDING BEING INSTALLED ON THE SOCIETY BUILDING

During one of the few warm days we had in January, Ray Webber suddenly appeared and began working on the Society building. He



removed all of the old clapboards in the rear of the building, removed three windows that were no longer being used, repaired the sills, insulated and began to install the new white

vinyl siding. Ray indicated with with warm weather in the spring, he would continue the project.

EARLY VIEW OF THE SOCIETY BUILDING AT 13 ELM STREET By Larry Berkson and Bill Provencal



Pictured above is what the Society headquarters looked like in 1913. The building was moved from the northwest corner of Elm and Main Street, when James M. Batchelder erected what is now known as the Green Block in 1887. At that time the building was owned by shoe manufacturer Nathaniel S. Drake. It was occupied by John Rand who ran a dry goods store there. In April 1904, a partnership was formed between W. E. Foss and True Osgood and they moved into the building, now on Elm Street, to run a tin, sheet metal, plumbing and heating business. The Holy Name Society of Our lady of Lourdes Catholic Church purchased the building, The Society made extensive repairs to the

building, adding a kitchen and enlarging the main hall by 14 feet. It was used for meeting, suppers and an entertainment venue. In 1945 the building was sold to Catamount Grange #97 and used for its meetings and social gatherings. It was purchased by the Historical Society in 1994 and renovated adding insulation, new windows and a coat of paint. The inside was reconfigured to accommodate a museum, meeting room and archives.

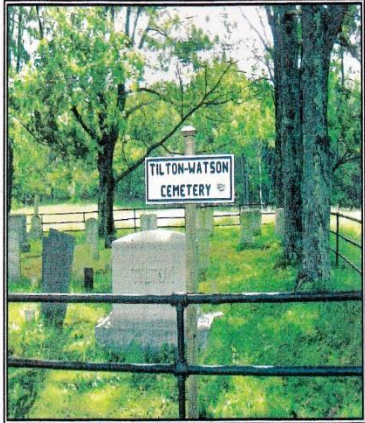
Fellows Hall to restoring the Scenic Theatre, how this group has stayed alive and thriving for over 40 years. There will be some behind-the-scenes stories that you won't want to miss! Ever wanted to know what goes on back stage? We'll spill some of the secrets audiences weren't meant to know. Join us at the Scenic Theatre on Wednesday, May 13 at 7 p.m.

PITTSFIELD FAMILY & CHURCH CEMETERIES

The Society with the help of many individuals has published a booklet of the names and directions to Pittsfield family and church cemeteries. The booklet contains over

In the Good Ol' Summertime:

Join the Pittsfield Historical Society to welcome summer 2015 with a program featuring memories of summers in Pittsfield, Wednesday, June 10, at 7 PM at the Society Headquarters on Elm Street. Bring your photographs, memorabilia and stories about bygone summer days, including Old Home Week, the fairgrounds, the golf course, the start of the Forrest B. Argue swimming pool or the time you spent there, summer sports, whatever it was that made your summer in Pittsfield special. In the true style of a summer picnic, refreshments of lemonade, tea sandwiches and cookies will be served.



TILTON-WATSON FAMILY CEMETERY: Main Street west to Carroll Street; turn right onto Carroll Street and go two blocks to four road intersection; turn right onto Route 107 south and go one block to "Y" intersection; take a left onto Tilton Hill Road and go 2.3 miles to True Road; turn right onto True Road and go .1 mile; cemetery on left approximately 200 yards into the field. *GPS Coordinates:* N 43 Degrees, 18.155 Minutes W 071 Degrees, 16.882 Minutes, (Elevation 947 Feet).

2015 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

**Cedric Dusstin III – President
 Martha Moly – Vice President
 Sabra Welch – Secretary and Clerk
 Clayton Wood – Treasurer**

40 cemeteries, a picture of the cemetery, directions on how to get to the cemeteries and GPS coordinates on how to locate the cemeteries. This booklet is free to those who wish to visit one of these cemeteries. Copies can be obtained at the Society Headquarters any Tuesday during the hours of 9-12.

Board of Directors

Gail Allard	Cedric Dustin III
Thomas Freese	David Harper
Jennifer Mika	Martha Molloy
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Marilyn Thyng	Ray Webber III
Sabra Welch	Clayton Wood

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

History of the Pittsfield Players:

Maye Hart and Meggin Dail of the Pittsfield Players Board of Directors, will give a brief history of the Pittsfield Players, including the many changes the Players' group has undergone, as well as how much community theatre has changed (and stayed the same) over the years - from chilly nights at the Odd