



Members Quarterly Newsletter

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

Class Tour

Ms. Kristen's 4th grade class recently visited the Historical Society's museum for a tour and presentation given by Larry Berkson. The twenty-two students plus chaperones then walked the Historic Trail starting at Frank Lyman's Park while Larry explained the various locations and answered questions. The Society always welcomes students to come tour the museum and learn a little of Pittsfield's history. Please call to make arrangements.

Clean up Day

Many thanks go to Jen Mika for initiating and organizing a Clean-up Day on Saturday, April 18. Numerous individuals gathered together to spruce up the Society's museum, taking advantage of the season to do some spring cleaning. Cabinets were organized, floors were vacuumed and dusting took center stage! The Society wishes to thank the following individuals for taking part in this endeavor: Sabra and Daniel Welch; Bill and Linda Provencal; Larry Berkson; Fuzza Freese; Jen Mika; Ray Webber; Martha Moly; and Gail Allard.



Future Programs

Our Town, 1980



Longtime Pittsfield high school teacher Jonas Glidden will take you on a tour of Pittsfield in 1980. If you are a current student, you may be amazed at the changes

that have taken place. If you attended school or lived in Pittsfield in 1980, you may find a "younger you" in some of the photos, or pictures of friends or teachers.

Thursday, September 17, at the PMHS Lecture Hall, starting at 7:00 p.m.

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

Learn about or remember the New England sweet corn industry. Pittsfield was one of only four New Hampshire towns to have a "corn shop." Bring your photographs, stories, and memorabilia. 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.

Thank You Pittsfield Middle School Students

As part of their "Day of Action" program, the students from the Pittsfield Middle High School cleaned up Lyman Park. They did a wonderful job! The Pittsfield Historical Society would like to thank all the students.

Old Home Day

Open House at the Historical Society

There will be an Open House at the Historical Society on Old Home Day, July 11, 2015, between 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Raffle tickets for the yearly fund raiser will be available at Old Home Day, the Balloon Rally and at the Historical Society until the program meeting on September 17 when the drawing will be held. Tickets cost 1 ticket for \$1 or 6 tickets for \$5.

The 2016 Calendar will also be available for \$10. This year's theme is "Industry in Pittsfield." These, too, will be available at Old Home Day, the Balloon Rally, and at various locations in town.

Happy 15th Anniversary!

July 15, 2000, marked the Grand Opening of Frank Lyman Park and Pittsfield's Historic Trail! There was a parade with floats and marching bands. There was a postage stamp cancellation commemorating the opening. Later in the evening, entertainment was provided by the Shaw Brothers on guitar and banjo.

The idea for Frank Lyman Park grew from the development of the Historic Trail. An attractive focal point was needed to begin the trail. In the fall of 1997, after negotiations with the Pittsfield Selectmen, the Historical Society "purchased" a town-owned lot on Carroll Street for \$1.00. The park and the trail were designed and built entirely by volunteers. Many thanks for their efforts.



Currently there are 36 locations on the 1.5 mile walk. A kiosk with a map of the trail can be found at Frank Lyman Park.

In The Good Ol' Summertime A Night of Nostalgia

Martha Moloy, at the May 13 meeting, shared information on some exciting summer activities that were held in Pittsfield.

Pittsfield was a bustling little town and attracted visitors who looked for both enjoyable activities and time for leisure. In a descriptive advertising pamphlet, Pittsfield was described as "A modern village in close touch with progress yet linked to the past..."

There was the Pittsfield Country Club, with a golf course located on South Main Street, band concerts, swimming, fishing and idyllic views. The people of Pittsfield also enjoyed the town's summer activities. On July 4, 1904, there were numerous activities scheduled throughout the day. There was the "process of Antiquities and Horribles," a basketball game, a potato race, a wheelbarrow race, a sack race, a greased pole, and a doughnut race. And these were just the morning events. Afternoon activities included a baseball game, horseracing, and a swimming race at Mill Pond. To conclude the evening, there was a band concert at Berry Park and fireworks. That was a day to enjoy!

Other events recalled by members were water fights between the citizens and the firefighters that occurred during a parade, the 24-Hour Club's activities, and horse racing at the Pittsfield Fairgrounds (located behind the current Dunkin' Donuts.)

Nancy Fogg also has bragging rights of watering elephants in her front yard on Berry Avenue when the circus came to town. That certainly was a sight!

And, of course, more recently, the Balloon Rally!