

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 Provençal, co-editors

Accessions

Freewill Baptist Church Plate



The Royalston Historical Society in Massachusetts donated a Souvenir plate of the Freewill Baptist Church in Pittsfield to the Museum. This plate was imported from Germany by the P. Foss Jeweler that was formerly in Pittsfield.

The Freewill Baptist Church has a long history in Pittsfield dating back to the 1770s when members met in houses. The Free Will Baptist group in Pittsfield was one of the first of that denomination in New England. Also because it was the first to establish a permanent place of worship, although not on the current site, it was host to many of the yearly Baptist conventions.

(Source: [History of Pittsfield, NH](#), E. Harold Young)



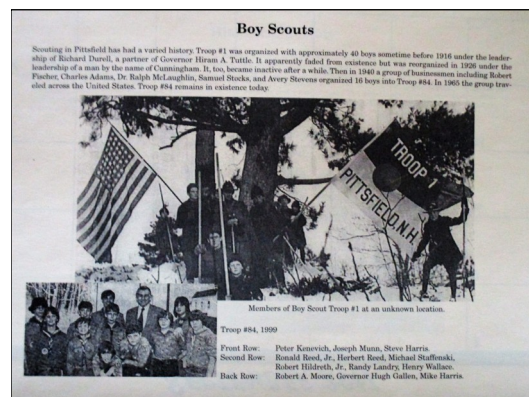
New England Championship Sled Dog Race



The Historical Society Museum recently received a pressed felt patch commemorating the New England Championship Sled Dog Race, which was held in Pittsfield NH. The patch, with a sketch of a sled dog, was donated by Meggin Dail.

2017 Calendar—A Great Gift!

The theme for the 2017 calendar is Pittsfield Organizations. The committee of three (Gail Allard, Bill Provençal and Larry Berkson) are the co-authors. Thirteen photos were selected and Larry Berkson prepared the written background information. Anyone wishing to purchase a calendar may do so by visiting the Historical Society headquarters on Tuesday morning between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. You may also purchase calendars at the Pittsfield Town Hall or by contacting Fuzz Freese at 435-7777.



Pittsfield's Boy Scouts of America, Troop 84

Leavitt's Cider Mill

Laurie Houle recently presented a very informative and entertaining history of the Leavitt's Cider Mill in Pittsfield. Reuben Leavitt, who originally started the Cider Mill, purchased the giant press in 1930 from Gilmanton Iron Works. Laurie started helping as a child and was affectionately known as the "cider girl." She then acquired the Mill in 1985. The Mill has been continually producing delicious unpasteurized cider! A video showing the step by step method of producing cider and some of the quirks of working in the mill was also a highlight of the presentation.



Laurie Houle with cider jug and red work hat in background

Clean-up at Lyman Park

Many thanks to all the volunteers who donated their time and efforts to clean up Lyman Park before the first snow. Leaves were raked, flowers pulled, and bushes trimmed. Special thanks to Joey Darrah and his crew for arriving very early to start the project and for efficiently removing truckloads of leaves. The park looks great and is ready for the cold winter months.

Lyman Park is the former site of the "Yellow Block," erected by Charles H.O. Green in 1883. It was one of the most beautiful tenements in Pittsfield, housing 5 or 6 families. After years of gradual decline, however, it was purchased by the town in 1992 and demolished in 1995. The Historical Society acquired this land and with the help of volunteers and many organizations who contributed time and finances, Lyman Park was created.

Holiday PES Sales Event



The Society manned a table recently for the PMHS Girls Basketball Annual Holiday Fair. Featured were the Society's newest fundraising project, prints by PMHS students, Emily Dunagin and Emma Smith, of various Pittsfield landmarks; ornaments, notecards, 2017 calendars and various books about Pittsfield's history. Many thanks go to Martha and Richard Moloy for their time to set up and host this event. The Society is always looking for events to highlight the many items available for sale, to answer questions, and to sign-up new members.



History of the First Congregational Church

The two-volume History of the First Congregational Church is now on sale at the Historical Society Museum. The history, researched and written by Larry Berkson, is an extensive and documented history of the Church. The cost of this two-volume set is \$35 and can be purchased at the Museum when it is open. Copies are also available at the Church.

When It Began by Larry Berkson

In October of 1897 the Congregational Church held an "Old People's Day" to honor Pittsfield residents over the age of 70. All 116 were invited to church services and 60 attended. The closing hymn was written by Mary Wheeler, the well-known poetess and wife of Doctor John Wheeler.

(Source: "Old People's Day," *The Valley Times*, October 15, 1897)