

Members Quarterly Newsletter



Issue XXXIX
1st Quarter March 2017

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

Cram Family Bible

The Museum recently received a “Cram” Family Bible from 1775 which is on loan from the owner, Gwyneth Clifford Cox. The Crams were a founding family in Pittsfield, when Pittsfield was a collection of farms with several small centers of activity.

Doctor's Bag

A Doctor's bag with various medical instruments was donated by Jen Goodwin from Epsom Family Medical. The doctor's bag was an “office” full of healing potions and instruments when the doctor made a house call. Do you remember house calls?

Barrel Top

A barrel top from A.W. Sanders was donated by Wesley Jones. A.W. Sanders was a variety store located where the Town Pizza is currently—27 Carroll Street. After A.W. Sanders closed, Girouard's opened.

Looking for Yearbooks

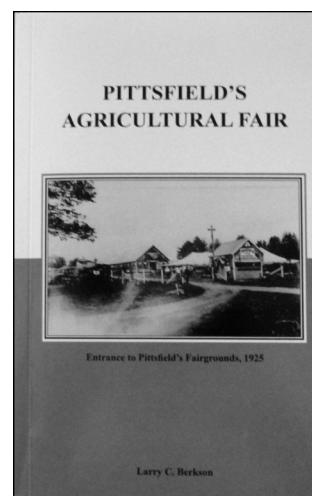
Looking for some Pittsfield High School yearbooks: in the attic, in the closet, or in the storage shed. If you have yearbooks you would like to donate, the Society is looking for the following years: 1969, 1987, 1989 or 1990. Thanks for your help.

When It Began—by Larry Berkson

In 1885 Hiram A. Tuttle, late governor of New Hampshire, erected one of the most magnificent homes in Pittsfield. Built on land once occupied by the famous Drake Hotel which burned in 1865, it is situated at the northeast corner of Carroll and Main streets. For decades it served as a funeral home for the Perkins and Pollard Families. Currently it is a private residence.

Pittsfield's Agricultural Fair

By
Larry Berkson



The Pittsfield Historical Society is pleased to offer Larry Berkson's new book, *Pittsfield's Agricultural Fair*. This is the 14th book written by Pittsfield's dedicated historian and offers an encompassing and detailed story of the various fairs in Pittsfield starting in 1889. As Larry describes the fairs throughout the year, he details many events that are not commonly found in current fairs. Do you know what Gymkhana races are? A novelty of the 1930 fair was Gymkhana races. (1) They are speed pattern races and time games for riders on horses. Enjoy reading the book and you will find other interesting tidbits of information.

This book captures the essence of agricultural life in early Pittsfield and how the fair was an integral part of Pittsfield's history. The book costs \$15 and is available at the museum and will be available at Old Home Day and the Balloon Rally.

(1)Gymkhana is speed pattern racing. In western U.S. it is usually called “O-Mok-See” which is derived from a Native American phrase which means “games on horseback.”

Early Woodworking In Pittsfield



Join us on May 10th for a look back at the early days of woodworking in our town. Woodworking in one form or another was once a part of everyday life for people pre-industrialization. We will explore the crafts' origins from the humble beginnings of John Cram's sawmill to the box and shingle mills of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and how this industry was indispensable to the early growth of Pittsfield. Short biographies will include: Jacob Jones, clock-maker; Abraham French, cabinetmaker; William Hartwell, millwright and lumberman; and others. After the presentation there will be a brief demonstration with some of the hand tools and techniques these craftsmen would have used in their work. Discussion regarding the modern role of the woodworking craft and its continued relevance is invited. David Harper, a local craftsman, will be leading the discussion.

Wednesday, May 10, 2017
The Society Museum
13 Elm Street
7:00 p.m.

Board of Directors –2017

Gail Allard
Larry Berkson
Liz Dimmick
Joe Darrah
Cedric Dustin III
Fuzz Freese
David Harper

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Bill Provencal
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Sabra Welch
Clayton Wood

Thank You

Our heartfelt thanks go to Cedric Dustin, III, and Sabra Welch for their many years of service as Officers of the Board of Directors for the Pittsfield Historical Society. Cedric is one of the founding members of the Society and most recently served as President for the past 10 years. Sabra, also a long-time member, recently served as secretary/clerk for the Society. The Board of Directors would like to thank them for their dedication and look forward to their continued support as Board Members.

“The Shakers” in New Hampshire

The United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing, commonly called “Shakers” has been present in New Hampshire since 1784. There have been close ties between this celibate religious communal society and Pittsfield throughout our histories. Join us as we explore the ties that link us to the Shaker Community and to the Shaker Museum that is in our back yard.

Please bring your experiences, stories, photographs, and memorabilia of the “Shakers” to share with the group. The program will be moderated by Sabra Welch, who will give an overview of the Shakers and share her experiences in helping to preserve the legacy of the “Shakers in New Hampshire”.



Wednesday, June 14,
2017
The Society Museum
13 Elm Street
7:00 p.m.

Samples of Shaker-style
bowls

2017 Membership

The Pittsfield Historical Society depends on its members for its continued support and growth. Recently you received a letter with a membership card. Please take a moment to complete it and mail it in, if you haven't already renewed your membership dues. Also, we are always looking for new members so please pass along this information.

If you have any stories you would like to share, please let us know. We are always interested in hearing tales, facts, and fables about Pittsfield and its residents. Without your support, we could not continue to provide the various services to the town of Pittsfield.

Please return your membership card and dues to Pittsfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 173, Pittsfield, NH 03263, or stop by on any Tuesday morning between 9:00 and noon, at 13 Elm Street, Pittsfield.