



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

Many thanks to all who have contributed items to the Pittsfield Historical Society. These items provide a glimpse into Pittsfield's past and the people who lived here.

Stop by at the museum to see an old toboggan given by Pamela Disney. Can you remember sliding down bumpy hills and being covered in snow? How good the warmth of home felt after a day on the hills.



Another memory—the smell of freshly baked bread and rolls. Nancy Kennedy found a wooden bank commemorating Fred Quinzani's bakery, previously located on Broadway.



Marcia Kiestlinger donated various pictures and other items related to Pittsfield's Old Home Day.

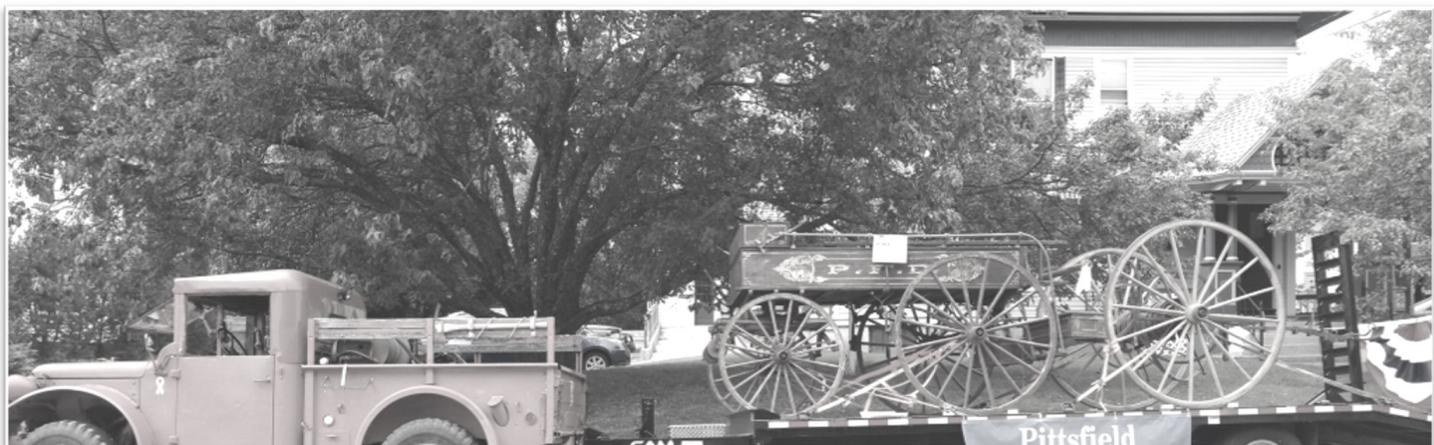
Shakers in New Hampshire Thank you, Sabra Welch

In June, Sabra Welch, a long-time Historical Society board member, presented the program on Shakers in New Hampshire. She had delved into the archives to explore the history and stories on the infirmary. However, her curiosity led her to explore numerous other avenues which she graciously shared with us. The Canterbury Village was established on land donated by Benjamin Witcher in 1792 and was a self-sufficient village that grew and prospered. But it met its demise when new members no longer embraced the celibate lifestyle. The last Shaker in Canterbury was Sister Ethel Hudson who moved to the Sabbathday Lake Village, New Gloucester, Maine and died in 1992 at the age of 96.

Old Home Day

Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's Old Home Day. This year, the Historical Society participated in the parade by showcasing Pittsfield's hand-drawn Hose Wagon purchased in 1876 and its Hose Carriage purchased in 1895. Thanks to Mike Wolfe for transporting the Hose Wagon with his 1954 truck, originally a Pittsfield's forestry truck. Pittsfield's history was in full display for everyone!

The highlight of the Historical Society's booth was Pearl Cheney. She fully embraced the Circus theme and was dressed as a tiger! Thanks, Pearl, for providing the "spark" of the booth.



History of Lyman Park

Before the weather creeps into winter, stop by Lyman Park on Carroll Street to enjoy the gardens and walk the Historic Trail. The Park, established in 2000, was designed and built entirely by volunteers after the land was "sold" by the Town to the Historical Society.

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.



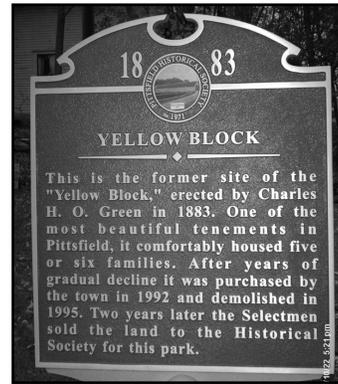
This park was designed/created by a group of volunteers from the town of Pittsfield and could not have been created without the support of the citizens of Pittsfield and the many organizations who contributed time and finances. The colorful plants are donated by Pleasant View Gardens and Historical Society volunteers maintain the park.



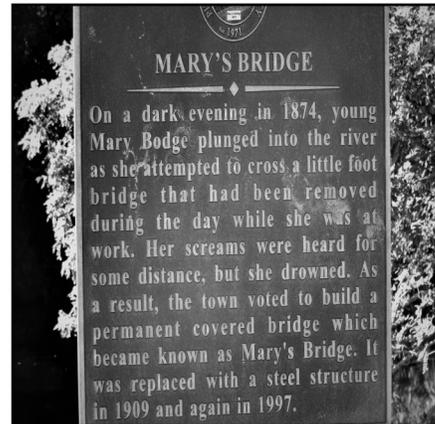
Stone wall designed and built by Dan Schroth and volunteers

This year, the benches were refurbished by David Harper, a local craftsman.

The Frank Lyman Park is named in honor of one of Pittsfield's notable businessmen. Mr. Lyman came from Boston to open Cambion, an electronic company. He enjoyed life in the small town and remained here until his death in 1992. He is buried at the Quaker Cemetery on Sunset Hill.



The Historic Trail begins at the kiosk in Lyman Park, winds 1.5 miles through downtown Pittsfield, and contains significant historic sites. Each site displays a prominent marker. The following historic marker describes the historic significance of "Mary's Bridge."



Thanks to the Balloon Rally Volunteers!

This year, although the Balloon Rally was dampened by the rain, those volunteers who manned the booth or prowled the grounds selling raffle tickets did an excellent job! Thanks to Pearl Cheney, David Harper, Ray Webber, Fuzz Freese, and Liz Dimmick for representing the Historical Society at this fun-filled event. Sorry, if I missed anyone who was there.

On Sale! 2018 Calendars

The 2018 Historical Society's calendar is now on sale! The theme selected for the 2018 calendar is Old Time Trades. Some trades highlighted in the calendar include blacksmiths, stage coach operators, lumbering and sawmills, and, of course, farming. An informative history and description is provided.

The calendars are currently available at the Town Hall and at the Historical Museum. Cost is still \$10.

They are excellent historical sources of Pittsfield and make excellent gifts!