



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

Accessions

Silver Star Medal

Joe Rogers recently donated a Silver Star Medal that was presented to his brother, William J. Rogers, Jr. Sergeant Wm. Rogers was in the Army's Company C 49th Armored Regiment and earned the medal on March 10, 1945. The medal reads, "Sergeant Rogers left a protected position to rescue members of a tank crew. The tank had been knocked out by enemy fire and immediately burst into flames. Rogers, without consideration for his own safety, exposed himself to enemy fire to affect the rescue. His deed was further complicated by the exploding stowed ammunition. His courage and heroism were beyond the call of duty and reflect credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States."



The **Silver Star Medal**, unofficially the **Silver Star**, is the United States Armed Forces' third-highest personal decoration for combat. The Silver Star Medal is awarded primarily to members of the United States Armed Forces for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States.

Chicken Crate

Wesley Jones, Loudon, recently donated a poultry crate that most likely had been used c1900 since it has slats for the sides rather than spindles that were commonly used in later years. The words, "J. S. Lake, Pittsfield, New Hampshire" are stamped on the crate. According to available records, no one by that name lived in Pittsfield. However, there was a John S. Lake, a farmer, who lived on Pleasant Street in Loudon in 1869. This is possibly the man who owned the crate. He passed away in 1931.



Apothecary Bottles



Wesley Jones donated three apothecary bottles clearly marked, "Pittsfield, New Hampshire." Each one is marked by the following individuals: Wm. A. Mack; V. A. Grant; and Arlon C. Adams. If anyone has information on any of these individuals, please contact the society.

Update on the New Museum

Plans for the new museum are progressing! The Building Committee has solicited bids to erect the building; the Interior Design Committee has inventoried all the artifacts located in the current museum and in other locations; the Fund-Raising Committee has developed a plan to solicit money.

The building will have two levels and will be segmented into 24 galleries. Each gallery will be devoted to an aspect of Pittsfield's history. The lower level, with a large exterior door, will contain the larger objects, such as the fire wagon. The upper level will have the archive room, the main gallery, and the meeting room. The main gallery will have a rotating display that will periodically be changed. The archive room will house sensitive material and will allow the Tuesday Morning Crew additional room to inventory and catalog new artifacts. The meeting room will be available for meetings and for our programs.

The Fund-Raising Committee will be selling bricks for walkways and a patio. These bricks can be engraved and can be used as a memoriam or honorarium. In addition, for larger donations, a person can sponsor a gallery or other rooms.

If you would like to see the building plans or would like more detailed information, please stop by at the museum on a Tuesday morning between 9:00 a.m. and noon. If the "Open" flag is out, we are in the building.

Freese Family Video

Historical Society's Program

The last program of 2018 was a video compilation of home movies donated by the Freese family. This video highlighted various scenes and family life in Pittsfield during the 1930s. Many people had a hand in providing this program. Many thanks to the Freese family for graciously donating a series of DVDs; to Clayton Wood who then updated the DVD format; and to Larry Berkson who narrated the series. Luckily there were numerous Freese family members who were able to provide additional insights and names of people and places.



Courtland Freese, Shirley Freese, and Larry Berkson

This program was an excellent way to conclude the 2018 programs and the Historical Society would like to thank everyone who has supported our program endeavors throughout the year. The program committee, composed of Bill Provencal, David Harper, Mark Riel, and Liz Dimmick, did an excellent job providing entertaining and informative speakers! If you have any ideas for future programs, please let us know!

2018 Raffle Winners

Congratulations to the following winners of the 2018 Raffle:

Becky Towle	\$100
Lori Clark	\$ 75
Dan Schroth	\$ 75
Gerald LeDuc	\$ 50

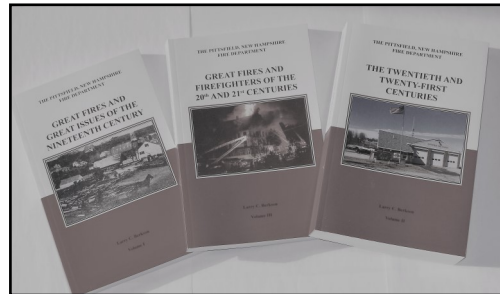
Thanks to all who have purchased tickets to support your local Historical Society!

Money raised by this raffle helps to maintain the facility and preserve local artifacts.

Picture overlooks the railroad tracks to Barnstead, the Suncook River and onto the old covered Barnstead Bridge. It was taken near the intersection of Tilton Hill Road and Berry Avenue.

Fires and Firefighters of Pittsfield

Larry Berkson recently completed a historical account of Pittsfield's fires and firemen in a three-book series entitled: "Great Fires and Great Issues of the Nineteenth Century," "The Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries," and "Great Fires and Firefighters of the 20th and 21st Centuries." They encompass the first fire wards, the development of a fire precinct, the types of equipment developed and used, and major fires from the 1900s starting with the Sargent Block fire. There are also brief biographies of people involved in establishing Pittsfield's fire fighting organizations throughout the years.



These books are currently available for sale at the Historical Society Museum and the Town Hall. They will also be at the Josiah Carpenter Library until the end of the year. Each book costs \$15 and would make a great gift for Christmas.

Whoops!

Joe Darrah and his crew weren't mentioned in the last newsletter as an integral part in maintaining Lyman Park. His professional expertise has greatly helped in the cleanup and maintenance of the grounds. Thanks, Joe!

2019 Town Calendar

Looking for a gift? The 2019 Town Calendar is now available for \$10. This year's theme is *Views of Pittsfield* and it pictures many historical scenes of the town. The calendar is available at the Josiah Carpenter Library, the Town Hall, and the Historical Society Museum.

