Accessions

1955 Valley Times, NH in the Great Rebellion, and View of Pittsfield

Many thanks to Millie Dustin, a long-time resident of Pittsfield, who donated a copy of The Valley Times from 1955, which is solely dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of the Pittsfield Savings Bank.

Mrs. Dustin also donated a copy of Pittsfield, N.H. in the Great Rebellion, written by Otis Frederick R. Waite. This historical book on the Civil War contains histories of several New Hampshire regiments and brief biographies, including men from Pittsfield.

Additionally, a View of Pittsfield, Merrimack County 1884 drawn and published by George E. Norris was also donated by Ms. Dustin.

Accessions

Granite Monthly

Many thanks to Susan Bleckmann for donating a copy of the September 1907 Granite Monthly. This issue contains a comprehensive article of Pittsfield, “Queen of the Suncook Valley,” which describes the idyllic and wonderful days in Pittsfield.

Pittsfield Gas Street Light

Thanks to the Duane and Cindy Eckhardt Elkins, the Historical Society has acquired an original Pittsfield gas street light. Ralph F. Eckhardt and Jean Eckhardt, long-time residents of Pittsfield, fortunately saved the gas light that once stood at the corner of Main and Blake streets.

The light was converted to electric power and then installed in front of their home, where it resided for numerous years, until it was generously donated to the Society. This authentic piece of Pittsfield’s history will find a new home at the new Historical building on Oak Street.

(continued on next page)
In January 1888, the plant and all properties were purchased by the Pittsfield Aqueduct Company and a new company was formed, the Pittsfield Gas Company.

As early as September 1887, editors of the local newspaper asked if there was any chance of streetlights being lighted by gas. To encourage this new idea, Mr. Knowlton provided outdoor lighting in the vicinity of the watering trough in front of Washington House and in Railroad Square free of charge. However, the townspeople voted to postpone a proposal to contract with the gas company for street lighting.

In 1890 the gas company finally was awarded a contract to provide street lighting. Thirty iron gas posts were purchased. By July lights were being placed on Elm, Chestnut, Bank (Carroll), Depot, and some other streets. However, these new lights were unsatisfactory—they were too expensive. And soon after Pittsfield went back to “moonlit streets.”

In 1892 kerosene lamps were put back in place.