



Members Quarterly Newsletter

Issue LIV
4th quarter, Dec. 2020

Pittfield Historical Society
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Pittsfield, New Hampshire – The Gem of the Suncook Valley
Liz Dimmick & Bill Provencal, co-editors

Accessions

Many thanks to Edward Canfield for donating numerous articles pertaining to firefighting and civil defense.

Some of the firefighting items include a Johnson portable radio, one of the first from 1960s, and a General Electric portable radio, from the 1980s.

Thanks to Virginia Hayes for also donating additional civil defense items: a helmet; an armband; and booklets.

She also donated numerous souvenir items from the New Hampshire Savings Bank and from the Pittsfield Savings Bank, as well as decorative calendars from the Pittsfield Weaving Company

Portable radios



Mfg. by Johnson



Mfg. by General Electric



Pittsfield Savings Bank Traveling
Teller Saving Bank

Other fire fighting items include a Fire Lieut vehicle plate; a metal Fire Department vehicle plate with the insignia Hook and Ladder #4; Edward Canfield's helmet, #42, and his forest fire belt.

The civil defense items also include a Geiger counter, and a CD emblem.



Hook and Ladder #4

Do you know
where it is placed?

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Historical Society will be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

Because of social distancing and the need to keep everyone healthy, it is uncertain whether this will be an in-person meeting or a virtual meeting. Up-to-date information will be available on our website.



*Happy
New Year!*

Controlled Chaos

Have you ever moved? Do you remember the boxes? The packing paper? The tape that kept sticking to itself?

That's the current project at the Historical Society's museum on Elm Street. Volunteers are cleaning, wrapping, sorting, and packing all the items that are currently housed at Elm Street. Since some of the items will be in different locations in the new museum, the volunteers are trying to mark the boxes so they will be deposited in the correct area. Previously, members of the interior design committee had carefully marked most items indicating future locations, but there were some items in display cases that were inaccessible, and the items aren't marked.

Sometimes the packing goes slowly since so many items have a story, and it would require a stronger will than mine to not explore and research the history of these items. Who is the stern-looking woman in that picture and what is her history in Pittsfield? How were these medical instruments used? Did this really happen at Old Home Day?

As the volunteers pack these items, you may see some stories about them that have generated interest, such as Thanksgiving dinner at the Washington House and the dedication at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in this current newsletter. It will be wonderful to see all these artifacts clearly displayed in the new museum.

Thanks to Gail Allard, Liz Dimmick, David Harper, and Martha Moloy for taking on this task! Volunteers are always needed!



Pittsfield Historical Society's

2021 Calendar

Is a Great Gift!



Grist mill and store at the foot of Concord Hill, built by William B. Hartwell

Purchase your copy at the Town Hall, Josiah Carpenter Library, or the Historical Society Museum!

The theme for our 2021 Calendar is:

"Before and After"

with 28 pictures of older buildings and how they have changed over time.

Cost: \$15

Call or Text Fuzz: 603-848-4488



Current building was purchased by Joseph Cortese for his stamp operation called "Noble Spirit."

The calendars can also be mailed to you for an additional \$1.80. These make great gifts!

Honor Someone Special!

Buy A Commemorative Brick!

A commemorative garden is being created on the grounds of the new museum. "BUY-A-BRICK" to honor whomever you wish, including yourself, your family, friends, business, or event. The bricks cost \$100 each and may be engraved with 3 lines of 18 characters each for a 4"x8" brick purchase. A commemorative certificate is also available for an additional \$15.



Lyman Park

We would like to thank all the members who volunteered to mow the lawn this past summer-fall at Lyman Park. With the strange weather we have experienced, some of us did not have to mow, since nothing was growing.

By volunteering, you helped us complete the list of potential mowers that we could count on if cutting the grass was necessary. The list of those who did volunteer are as follows: Liz Dimmick, Fuzz Freese, Levi Gallup, David Harper, Jamie Koladish, Bill Provencal, Mark Riel, Judy Webber, and Ray Webber. So regardless if you did not mow or did mow, thank you for stepping up and volunteering.

Thanks, also, to Larry Berkson for replacing paver sand between the cobble stones, Joe Darrah and his crew for the massive fall clean-up, Fuzz Freese for garbage disposal, Ray and Judy Webber for installing bunting and later Christmas lights, Clayton Wood for replacing bricks and synchronizing lights, and to anyone who picked up papers or pulled a weed!

Thanksgiving at the Washington House

Volunteers have been cleaning and packing items for the move to the new building, and they have been discovering many interesting and varied historical items. Some small item may trigger a memory or a story. Other items raise questions: How was this item used? Where was this business located? Did Pittsfield really have dog sled races and where were they held?

As we find other items that might interest you, we'll include some of them with their history in the newsletter. And, of course, if you have some additional information or thoughts, please let us know.

One item that was discovered was a 1933 Thanksgiving menu from the Washington House donated by Ogden and Rowena Boyd. The new museum is located on the former site of the Washington House; and because of the coincidence, this menu generated discussion among the volunteers.

Dinner choices included roast Thanksgiving turkey, native roast chicken, prime sirloin roast of beef, broiled sirloin steak. For dessert, there was hot mince pie, pumpkin pie, green apple pie or English plum pudding. Another amazing fact is that the dinner cost \$1.

That selection seems quite extensive for a small local restaurant. But maybe it wasn't so local. Perhaps the historical society will have to delve more deeply into the Washington House's history.

December 1975 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Celebrates the Dedication of the Undercroft

Remember When?
Information from the Pittsfield News,
December 10, 1975

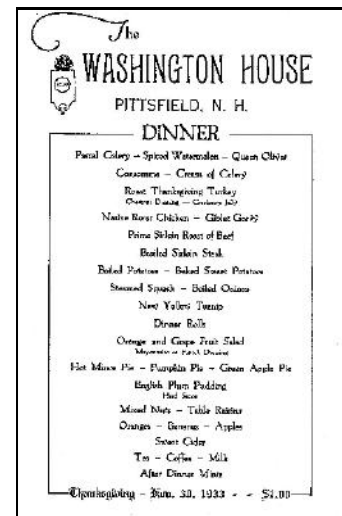
In December 1975, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church celebrated the dedication of a reconstructed undercroft. It was an extensive undertaking, but it was one that had to be completed. During the spring of 1975, the church had been plagued by spring flooding and this was an opportune time to increase space. The reconstruction project entailed removing the church from the original foundation, constructing a new foundation that incorporated the changes, and then replacing the church. This work included widening the foundation walls, enlarging the kitchen, adding an additional bathroom, and new space for the furnace.

Unexpectedly, the construction project uncovered a box placed in the cornerstone on July 20, 1863. This box was hidden and unknown to the church members until accidentally discovered by Royce Kelly, senior warden.

The Rt. Rev. Philip Smith, Episcopal Bishop of New Hampshire, and the Rev. Donald Corringham, rector, presided at the open house with prayers of celebration and dedication. The celebration was attended by a large gathering of church members, friends, and other community clergy.

In 2003, the church updated the undercroft with a new radiant heating system and made one of the bathrooms ADA compliant. Then the 1975 kitchen was remodeled and replaced in 2019 to better serve the church and the community. (*Thanks to Sabra Welch for the updated information.*)

Menu from the
Washington
House

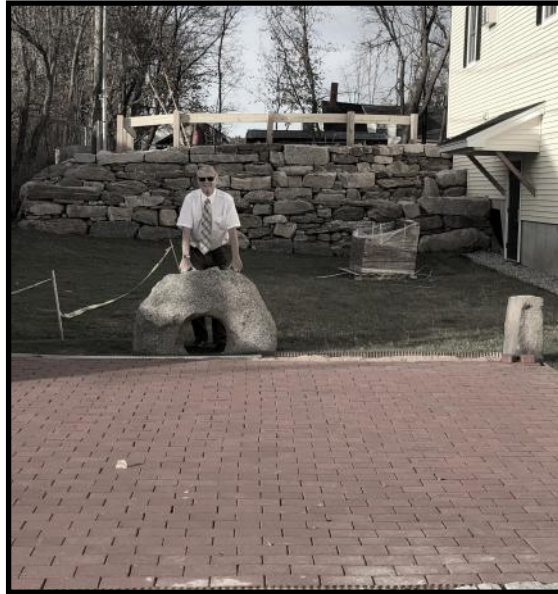


Update on the new Museum!



Newly installed carpet on the first floor.

Larry Berkson overlooking commemorative bricks. Larry did most of the work by himself. Thanks, Larry!



Christmas Decorations provided by Judy and Ray Webber. There are also candles in the windows which are visible at night. Thanks Judy and Ray!

