



Members Quarterly Newsletter

Issue LV I
2nd. quarter, June 2021

Pittsfield 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 J. Curtis Chipman, from Harpswell, ME, for donating a wonderfully preserved sword from the Civil War, and historical information. This sword belonged to Sydney P. Bunker. He was born in 1845 and died in 1936 at 89. He married Jennie Jones in Pittsfield on Dec. 9, 1860. He enlisted in Co. I, First NH Cavalry at Concord, April 23, 1864, and was in 12 battles and 36 engagements; he was the youngest man in his company.



Thanks also to Mary Briggs of Cincinnatus, NY, for donating what seems to be a watch fob. However, we, at the society, are still trying to determine the significance of the Opera House medallion. Do you know?



Watch Fob

Next, the Holy Name Society of our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church purchased the building and made extensive repairs, adding a kitchen and enlarging the main hall by 14 feet. In 1945, the Catamount Grange purchased it and used it until 1994. At that time the Pittsfield Historical Society purchased the building.



Missing the Weathervane?

Many thanks to Judy Nutter Corchiarino of Grasonville, MD for donating a memorial ribbon from the Catamount Grange No. 97. This building has a long and eventful history.

It previously was located on the northwest corner of Elm and Main Street and then moved when James M. Batchelder erected what is now known as the Green Block in 1887. At that time, it was owned by Nathaniel S. Drake, a shoe manufacturer. Next it was a dry goods store run by John Rand. In 1904, W. E. Foss and True Osgood moved into the building to house their tin, sheet metal, plumbing and heating business.

Most of you are familiar with the Indian weathervane that graced the cupola of the new museum AND you may be wondering where it may be hiding. It disappeared, but it will return!

During one of the powerful wind and rainstorms that we had, Paul Provencal noticed that it was swaying quite violently. Ray Webber was called for reinforcement and the two men lowered it off the roof and into the shelter of the cupola. Both were concerned that if the wind ripped it off the roof, it would shatter the solar panels.

Plans are being made to reinforce the method of installation, so another rescue won't be necessary.

Lyman Park

Lyman Park is once again in full bloom--thanks to the generosity of Jeff Huntington and Pleasant View Gardens, and members of the Pittsfield Historical Society who put in a morning's worth of soil toil. The "gardening" crew planted the beautiful flowers, following the designs of Pleasant View, mulched the beds, swept the cobblestones and watered everything. A little patch of beauty right in the middle of town.

Thanks Everyone!

Ford Harper and
Rose Koladish

Our youngest
volunteers!



Plantings

Have you seen the new plantings at the new museum? Nick Penny, a member of the Pittsfield Beautification committee, designed and planted the various gardens surrounding the museum. Then the volunteers followed through by weeding, mulching, and watering. The surrounding lawns are also growing and require mowing. Stan Bailey has been transporting mulch; Art Laro has been spreading mulch; Clayton Wood has been mowing; and many people have been watering. Thanks to all!



Commemorative Garden

Thanks to Larry Berkson, additional commemorative bricks have been added to the patio on the Main Street side of the new museum. Please stop by to view the bricks and to see what has been added by your neighbors. You can still purchase bricks to honor someone.



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.



Tour of the Museum!

Items from Pittsfield Weaving

The Historical Society received two significant artifacts from the Pittsfield Weaving Company. Laurie and Ed Vien donated an executive desk and credenza, originally from the weaving company. Both items are in almost pristine condition and will be housed in the office. Both will be carefully used by volunteers. Many thanks to Laurie and Ed for such a beautiful and useful donation.



Desk from Pittsfield Weaving

Credenza from
Pittsfield Weaving



Volunteers at Work!



Gail Allard cleaning bookshelves



Martha Molloy cleaning
bookshelves



Larry Berkson putting file
cabinet together

Bookshelves

Another item that has received a "second life" is a set of bookshelves. These bookshelves, donated by Donna Ward, were originally from the Josiah Carpenter library, and they are now being used to house many of the historical reference books and materials used by the society. Thank you, Donna, for your generous donation.



Gaslight

Did you see the hole in front of the new building on Main Street? No, we were not digging for drainage or for any other reason you may have thought. We were getting ready to install a historic gaslight that was donated by Duane and Cindy Elkins. This gaslight once stood at the corner of Main and Blake streets. It was saved by Ralph F. and Jean Eckhardt and later converted to electric power. Thanks to Eli English, the light has been refurbished and painted black. Fuzz Freese has coordinated its move from Tilton Hill and its future installation at the new museum,



Almost done!

