



# Members Quarterly Newsletter

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Pittsfield Historical Society  
4 Oak Street  
Pittsfield, NH 03263  
603-435-8004

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

## Update on the Museum

Many of you are wondering what we are doing in the new museum. We are certainly not resting! Rather many volunteers are working to organize the various displays. As you remember, there are AT LEAST 24 different display areas that must be set up—several more than the old museum. There are also “new” items that must be classified and arranged. We promise we are working diligently to organize, clean, label, record, and display everything.



If you have been following us on Facebook, you'll remember some photos devoted to the old Washington House and how these old views reminded you of the various times you were there. Recently Sandy Croteau donated a wicker desk from the Washington House. This is just one example of a “new” item that must be cleaned and entered into our records.

Desk from Washington House.

We also acquired a wooden column from the Pittsfield Fairgrounds donated by Barbara Roberts. This column was preserved by her father, Irving Roberts, and was stored in a barn. This column is large and quite heavy—so it has found its “forever home” at the museum.

All these items require indexing and researching its history, so it takes time. But I'm sure you will be pleased when the museum is reopened!

Wooden Column from the Pittsfield Fairgrounds



**Annual Meeting—January 11, 2022  
6:00 p.m.  
4 Oak Street, Pittsfield**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR! WELCOME 2022!**

## Pittsfield “Happenings”

As you can imagine, some traditional activities in Pittsfield were cancelled because of Covid, such as the Balloon Rally and Old Home Day. These events are a source of income for the Society since we have an opportunity to sell calendars, t-shirts, and raffle tickets, and it's a fantastic opportunity to meet people and explain the Society's mission. When a group of volunteers put their collective heads together to organize a town-wide event, the Society readily agreed to participate.

In September, the **Pittsfield Celebrates: Homecoming** was a reality! This celebration was a combination of Pittsfield's Night Out and the high school's homecoming—with a dash of Old Home Day! Numerous businesses and non-profits participated. There was free food, a movie, police and firefighters with their vehicles, children's activities and many booths, like ours, selling items and meeting people. Of course, there was the Homecoming Parade with class floats! The students seemed to be having a wonderful time. Perhaps, people were tired of being at home, so there was a great turn out!

In October, there was **Harvest Fest**, a yearly activity sponsored by the Pittsfield Parks and Recreation Commission. There were numerous activities for young people: pumpkin carving, horse drawn wagon rides, and a chance to smash a pinata! Although this event was for young people, the Historical Society also participated, and we had a chance to answer questions and to sell a few items!



Pittsfield Historical Society  
Left: Art Laro, Donna Webber  
Seated: Martha Moloy



Parade Float  
Senior Class



Parade Float  
Class of 2025



## Pittsfield Historical Society



is on Facebook!

Well, we've launched further into the world of Social Media by putting our "Face" on Facebook.

**Pittsfield NH History** is our official Facebook page, and we are excited to announce that it is rapidly becoming popular with folks near and far. The Group page is a place where its members enjoy and share the history of our community, centuries past, decades past, and of more recent times.

Our page Administrator, Board of Directors' member, Levi Gallup, has designed a beautiful page and updates it regularly with "Historical Snippets" and photographs. We encourage members of the **Pittsfield Historical Society** to join our Group; and encourage members of **Pittsfield NH History** to share photos and stories of our town's past, along with memories of those who once lived and thrived here. People forge the fabric of any community, and their stories explain much about the town we share today.

**Pittsfield NH History** is a place where, together, we can keep history alive, honor those who came before us, and share the stories of our common past. You will also find announcements, program notices, and bits of news regarding current events at the **Pittsfield Historical Society**.

**We look forward to seeing you at Pittsfield NH History!**



## **Sanborn Mills Farm Tour**

The Society held its first program in 2021 at Sanborn Mills Farm. We felt comfortable inviting people to attend an outdoor event with natural social distancing and it seems people agreed. Approximately 30 people attended, and it was a wonderful tour given by Colin Cabot, Founder and Executive Director, and Ray Ramsey, Farm Manager.

We saw and heard the history of the various barns and buildings, saw some new construction completed in the "old-fashioned way," sawmills, and, of course, the gardens.

Although it was late in the season, the gardens were still attractive and interesting. The evening ended in a rainstorm, but we hope to include some of their traditional activities in next year's program: stencilling; woodworking; spinning; blacksmithing

## **Thank You!**

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped to maintain Lyman Park and the lawn and gardens at the new museum! Both areas looked great throughout the spring/summer months. I would like to recognize and thank those who embraced the maintenance responsibilities throughout the summer, beginning with Jaimie Koladish for organizing the volunteers at Lyman Park and for stepping in when the park needed some "extra" help.

Many people labored on the new building and the lawns and gardens were new. Larry Berkson, Fuzz Freese, and Art Laro worked on the grounds to establish the lawns. Of course, once the lawns were planted, they needed water. Thanks to Levi Gallup, Art Laro, and Mark Riel for sharing the weekly watering schedule. And once the lawns were established, thanks to Clayton Wood for the weekly mowing!

The gardens were designed and planted by Nick Penny, who also gave us invaluable advice on how to maintain the plantings. Many people helped with delivering mulch, spreading mulch, and then weeding the gardens.

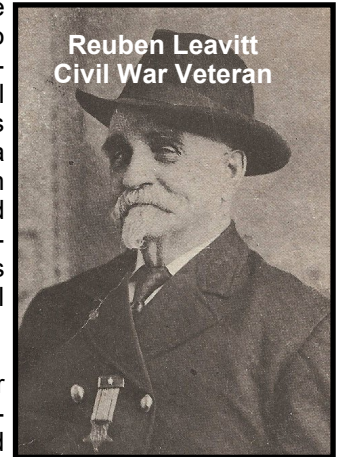
When you walk by on Main Street, you'll see the wonderful area with all the commemorative bricks. The primary layout was designed by Larry Berkson, who also placed some bricks, and Art Laro who has followed through with the design and has placed additional bricks. Many thanks to all who have purchased bricks; there are still spots available for additional purchase of commemorative bricks. Any additional bricks will be installed in the spring.

Thanks also go to Judy and Ray Webber for the "extras" they provided that have added flair to Lyman Park and the new museum. Judy and Ray added the bunting and Christmas lights to the gazebo in Lyman Park. (Judy also devoted a huge amount of time weeding the gardens at Lyman Park.) They also installed the bunting on the main entrance to the museum, and the colorful flowers in the urns. And to celebrate the holidays, Judy hung wreaths on all the doors and placed candles in all the windows.

There are many others who have stepped forward to help with the maintenance of the building, and everyone's help is needed and appreciated. Thank you!

## **2022 Calendar**

The theme of the 2022 calendar honors the men and women of Pittsfield who have served in the Armed Forces. It contains 26 wonderful photographs of servicemen, servicewomen, and various memorials located throughout Pittsfield, and provides a brief history of our loyal soldiers who fought for their country. Although there were soldiers from Pittsfield who fought in the Revolutionary War, the earliest image available to the Society is of Asa Bartlett, a captain in the Civil War. The calendar ends with Richard A. Brooks, a corporal in the Vietnam War. In between you'll find history, insight, and perhaps even a relative! This year, give the gift of local history!



Calendars are available for sale at the Town Hall, Josiah Carpenter Library, and at the Historical Society's new museum on Oak Street on most Tuesday mornings (9-noon). You may also call or text Fuzz Freese at 603-848-4488, to arrange a purchase. The cost is \$15, payable by check or cash.