



# 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

Other historical items are appearing! With the new museum, we are now able to display larger donated items. Thanks to Mark Riel and Larry Berkson for saving and storing these important artifacts! Both of them have been saving seats for the historical society.

Mark Riel donated connecting theater seats from Pittsfield's Scenic Theatre. Just looking at them brings back memories—not only of the Scenic Theatre, but of other theaters. They are the classic red leather, with metal frames. Thanks, Mark!

Larry Berkson has also been saving seats—and pews. He donated connecting seats that came from the old B & M train depot from around the 1950s. This is when the seats were wooden with B & M carved in the wood. A time gone by.



Seats from  
Pittsfield's Scenic  
Theatre

Seats from the B & M railroad  
depot



### **Accessions-con't**

Larry also saved a pew from the Advent Christian Church. This pew is old; according to Larry, it was used around 1892. Not very comfortable, but they served the purpose of keeping a person awake.

Then, remember the old meeting house? We have some of the seats that were previously used there! Thanks again to Larry Berkson for his foresight in saving the seats!



Pew from Advent Christian Church

Seats from the  
Old Meeting House



### **2022 Calendar—Dedicated to Pittsfield's Men and Women—Who Served in the Military**

Honoring the men and women of Pittsfield who have served in the Armed Forces across more than a century is the theme of the Pittsfield Historical Society's 2022 calendar. It depicts the soldiers who fought for their country, beginning with Asa Bartlett, a captain in the Civil War; the Gold Star Mothers who lost a son or daughter while in combat; and dedication ceremonies for the memorials that have been erected throughout the town. Although there were soldiers from Pittsfield who fought in the Revolutionary War, the Historical Society was unable to find pictures.

The calendars are available for sale at the Town Hall, Josiah Carpenter Library, and at the museum. You may also call or text Fuzz at 603-848-4488 if you wish to purchase one. The cost is \$15.



L. Melvin Garland, Norman Plante, Richard Davis, Kenneth Danis, and Samuel Bussieres



## The Dollhouse Has Come Home!

For numerous years, an exquisite 1700s colonial-style dollhouse has been on display at the Epsom Library. This detailed dollhouse was built by Ralph Van Horn. Although he originally hadn't planned on making a dollhouse, he loved crafts and was fond of the historical buildings in Portsmouth. So, for three decades, he spent his free time constructing dollhouse furniture from 1:12-inch scale kits. He gave this furniture to his daughter, Christina Van Horn, who determined that the best way to showcase this fine furniture was to construct an open-sided dollhouse. With her husband, Dana Milner, they created a four-story miniature house that is historically accurate.

Ms. Van Horn said the dollhouse was a family affair. The furniture was made by her father; some of the pillows were crafted by her grandmother. Some of the furniture found in the attic does not match the time period, but they were pieces given to her over the years.

Currently the dollhouse's furnishings are packed away for safety, but they will be placed in the appropriate rooms when the dollhouse is put on display. The pictures shown were taken when the dollhouse was on display at the Epsom Library.

It's a wonderful showcase of skill and artistry, and a detailed historical reproduction.  
(Information from the *Concord Monitor*, June 18, 2017)



Interior Views of the Dollhouse



## **Books on Military History**

### **Available at the Pittsfield Historical Society**

#### ***Pittsfield's Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War, and Spanish-American War Veterans***

by Larry Berkson (2006).

This book describes the Pittsfield veterans who served in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War, and Spanish-American War. Presented are major biographies about John Cram and Jonathan "Jocky" Fogg, as well as more than 65 other individuals who served in the Revolutionary War, nearly 50 who served in the War of 1812, two who served in the Mexican War, nine who served in the Spanish-American War, and nearly 30 others associated with Pittsfield. It also contains 62 photographs of headstones and places where the veterans lived.

**Price \$15.00**

#### ***Pittsfield's World War II Veterans, Volume 1, Army Veterans: The American and Northern European Theaters***

by Larry Berkson and Robert Moulton (2010).

A book on Pittsfield's World War II army veterans who served in the American and Northern European Theaters. Included are 35 biographies of men serving in the United States during the war, and 72 men who served in Northern Europe, as well as 105 photographs.

**Price \$20.00 each**

#### ***Pittsfield's World War II Veterans, Volume II, Army Veterans: The African, Southern European and Pacific Theaters***

by Larry Berkson and Robert Moulton (2010).

A 236-page book on Pittsfield's World War II army veterans who served in the African, Southern European and Pacific Theaters. Included are biographies of 18 men serving in Southern Europe and Africa, and 62 men serving in the Pacific, as well as 68 photographs.

**Price \$20.00 each**

#### ***Pittsfield's World War II Veterans, Volume III, Army Air Corps Veterans***

by Larry Berkson and Robert Moulton (2010).

A 168-page book on Pittsfield's World II Army Air Corps veterans. Included are biographies of 19 men who served in the United States, six who served in Europe and Africa, and 16 who served in the Pacific, as well as 44 photographs.

**Price \$20.00 each.**

#### ***Pittsfield's World War II Veterans, Volume IV, Coast Guard,***

#### ***Marine Corps, Merchant Marine and Navy Veterans***

by Larry Berkson and Robert Moulton (2010).

A 222-page book on Pittsfield's World War II Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Merchant Marine, and Navy Veterans. Included are biographies of two men who served in the Coast guard, 19 who served in the Marines, three who served in the Merchant Marines, and 50 who served in the Navy, as well as 67 photographs.

**Price \$20.00 each.**

#### ***Pittsfield's World War II Veterans, Volume V, Female Veterans and Veterans Loosely Associated with Pittsfield***

by Larry Berkson and Robert Moulton (2010).

A 252-page book on those women, either closely associated or loosely associated with Pittsfield, who served in World War II. It also includes male veterans loosely connected with Pittsfield. A final section is devoted to a summary of birth dates, educational levels, dates of entry, ranks and ratings, combat medals awarded, those killed or wounded, prisoners of war, and mortality of Pittsfield's veterans. Also included are 50 photographs.

**Price \$20.00 each.**

#### **World War II Books:**

Complete Set of 5 Volumes  
Costs \$85